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Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz said Baghdad's negotiated agreement with the United Nations on inspecting the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation reaped "positive goals" for his country and "will reflect positively in guaranteeing the considerations we sought to secure in our conflict and struggle with the Security Council." He warned that "when the inspection teams come and request something or act in a provocative manner which includes insults, then the consequences will be very difficult for them," INA reported. Speaking in an interview aired on Baghdad television on 27 July, 'Aziz noted that no Americans will be among the inspection team members allowed to enter the building, adding that any attempt to portray the agreement as a U.S. victory is "American buffoonery and nonsense," according to the press agency. In a related development, UN Special Commission Chief Rolf Ekeus arrived in Baghdad on 28 July to "discuss future arrangements and continued cooperation in a way that will satisfy Iraq and the inspection teams," INA disclosed.

Israel

In a speech carried by Jerusalem TV, Prime Minister Rabin said he was "dumbfounded" at the no-confidence motions introduced by the opposition, when his government had already "received the public's vote of confidence." Jerusalem TV also reported that the five no-confidence motions were defeated 59 to 48. Addressing the first meeting of the Labor Party's Knesset faction, Rabin also said his government "discovered empty coffers with commitments running into the billions and a slew of legal problems," Jerusalem radio reported.

Algeria

A national commission of inquiry charged with probing the assassination of Higher Commission Chairman Mohamed Boudiaf found that the murder was a "meticulously planned act," involving "services close to the president," Algiers radio disclosed. Despite these revelations, the public feels "a sense of frustration" because no suspects were named in the commission's report, according to the radio. Meanwhile, jailed leaders of the outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) have "expressed their willingness to appeal their sentences," Algiers radio noted.

Palestinian Affairs

Delegation to Talks Agrees To Attend Next Round

NC2707141792 Paris AFP in English 1357 GMT 27 Jul 92

[Text] Amman, July 27 (AFP)—The Palestinian delegation to Middle East peace talks said Monday it would attend the sixth round of Arab-Israeli negotiations in Washington on August 10. Delegation chief Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi told AFP that the team "had given its agreement." "We are challenging neither the place nor the date of this session," he said.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker said in Manila last week, after touring the Middle East, that the United States favoured a change of venue from Rome—emptied by summer vacations—to Washington and an early date in order to speed up the peace process.

'Abd-al-Shafi was speaking here after taking part in a strategy conference in Damascus of Israel's Arab interlocutors at the talks, including Egypt and Palestinian representatives.

On Sunday Israel said it would be attending the next round, the sixth since the peace process was launched in Madrid in October. One session took place in Madrid and four others in Washington yielding no concrete results.

Ambassador, Arab League Chief on Tactics for Talks

NC2707181192 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1435 GMT 27 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo, 27 Jul (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid received Palestinian Ambassador Sa'id Kamal this afternoon. After the meeting, Kamal said that he briefed the secretary general on the results of the recent Damascus foreign ministers meeting.

Kamal said that very little time remains for the Arab negotiators before the peace talks resume and they must, therefore, adopt firm decisions on matters related to peace. He explained that raising the issue with the Arab League secretary general was necessary due to his official capacity and personal experience in these matters.

He added that he submitted a memorandum to the secretary general on Israeli settlement plans, which continue despite announcements by the new Israeli Government to the contrary.

Asked about the prospect of resuming the peace talks in Cairo, he said that the Palestinian delegation first welcomed this idea but now believes that it should consult the parties involved before making a decision. Kamal said that Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat will visit Cairo soon to exchange views with Egyptian officials about the development of the peace process.

Abu-Sharif Notes 'Greater Chance' for Settlement

NC2807101392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0930 GMT 28 Jul 92

[Text] Tunis, 28 Jul (MENA)—Bassam Abu-Sharif, adviser to Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, has said that a full halt to building Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territories is a necessary start for successful peace negotiations. He told a MENA correspondent in Tunis today that he expects the change in the Israeli position, after Rabin's assumption of power, to become gradually clearer.

Abu-Sharif expressed his conviction that what the Palestinians have sensed so far indicates that there is now a greater chance for reaching a settlement based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

He stressed confidence that U.S. President George Bush and Secretary of State James Baker will continue to try to implement the resolutions of international legitimacy.

Abu-Sharif expressed hope that the young members of the Israeli Labor Party will be able to convince Rabin to stop the iron-fist policy, respect Palestinian human rights, and implement the Fourth Geneva Convention. The Palestinian president's adviser asserted his readiness to open direct dialogue with the leaders of the Labor Party to give impetus to the official negotiations. He said Egypt can arrange for such meetings. Abu-Sharif explained that abolishment of the Israeli Knesset's resolution banning the Israelis from meeting PLO members will be a test for Rabin's government during the coming period.

Abu-Sharif called on the United States to repeal its decision denying entry visas to PLO leaders and members. This decision is no longer justified, and its cancellation would greatly help push the peace process forward, he said.

Banning Palestinian peace advocates from addressing the American public, Abu-Sharif added, would negatively affect the political peace process.

He called on James Baker to launch such an initiative to create a more positive climate that would pave the way for resuming the direct dialogue between the U.S. Administration and the PLO.

'Arafat Message to Malta Conference on Palestine

LD2707193292 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 27 Jul 92

[Message from Palestine president and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to the seventh UN European conference on the Palestinian issue which opened in Valletta, Malta, 27 July]

[Excerpts] It gives me pleasure to address you in the name of our Palestinian people, in the name of brother members of the PLO Executive Committee, and in my

own name, and to convey to you warmest greetings on the occasion of this important conference on the Palestinian issue. [passage omitted]

We believe that the Israeli electorate has voted in favor of peace. We welcome this long-awaited change, especially after the years of political darkness and the political and religious fanaticism left behind by the Likud governments. However, we hope at the same time that the new Israeli Government will realize the aspirations of the Israeli electors who voted for peace, and embark on a basic change in Israeli policy, in favor of peace. Failing this the change will be only in name, especially when Rabin is the author of the theory that advocates breaking people's bones as one way to strike at our glorious Palestinian people's uprising, and building new settlements goes on.

His government must show new political realism and greater flexibility in dealing with the U.S. initiative declared by President Bush, on the basis of which the current peace process has taken place. It should announce its agreement to the principle of land for peace, and it should be committed to the UN Security Council resolutions, including 242 and 338, and to the right of our people to self-determination. [passage omitted]

Ladies and gentlemen, we appeal to you in your capacity, as being directly concerned with the right of the Palestinian people to exercise their inalienable rights, to help by applying pressure on the Israeli Government so that it will submit to international legitimacy and its resolutions and stop its repressive policy against our defenseless people in the occupied Palestinian territories.

I affirm to you that the revolution and uprising of our people will continue until a just peace is gained by reinstating the national and inalienable rights of our people, and first and foremost its right to return and to self-determination, and the establishment of its independent state whose capital is Holy Jerusalem is achieved.

I wish every success for your seminar and your efforts.

FRC Issues Statement on Khalid Assassination

NC2707145192 Beirut AL-ANWAR in Arabic 24 Jul 92 p 7

[Excerpt] Walid Khalid, official spokesman of the Fatah Movement-Revolutionary Council [FRC], was assassinated in Beirut yesterday morning [23 July]. Two gunmen in a white Fiat station wagon opened fire with submachine guns equipped with silencers as he was riding in his blue 280 Mercedes near Mar Ilyas camp. He was rushed to American University Hospital and died there.

The FRC issued the following statement:

The FRC mourns the loss of martyr leader and struggler Rizq Sa'id 'Abd-al-Majid 'Awdah, whose nom de guerre is Walid Khalid.

The hand of the Zionist Mosad, through its local instruments and with the collaboration and collusion of the traitor to the [Palestinian] revolution, cause, and people, Yasir 'Arafat, committed the crime of assassinating leader Walid Khalid as he was going on a mission of struggle in Beirut this morning.

This second crime committed by the Zionist Mosad against our movement's strugglers in less than a month proves that the traitor sitting on top of the PLO is trying to supplement his political role in liquidating the Palestinian cause by practically participating with the Zionist Mosad in liquidating the revolution's leaders, all of whom express the will to continue the armed struggle and popular revolution in Palestine. [passage omitted]

Rights, Not Favors Demanded From Israel

LD2407165492 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Brothers, during the meeting between James Baker, the U.S. secretary of state, and members of the Palestinian delegation, Baker confirmed that the United States has not been striving to achieve separate settlements but a comprehensive settlement among all the Arab parties and Israel. He recalled that the Palestinian side was distinguished by having to pass through a transitional stage before going into the final negotiations. He made clear that Washington is striving to hold the next round of bilateral negotiations, which are expected to be intensive, continuous, and serious.

Baker's affirmations and statements came amidst American climates that are trying to exploit the secretary's visit to Israel to restore American-Israeli relations to their former flourishing era. The American election campaign imposes itself in this regard and so an American source, accompanying Baker, stated that the secretary of state is currently dealing with an Israeli government that has changed the national agenda of priorities and there is consequently scope to achieve progress.

In return the Palestinian side submitted to Baker a memorandum containing the Palestinian political stand, with its constants that underlined the transitory nature of the transitional stage during which Palestinian authority should enjoy the powers of legislation and control over the land, and the necessity of holding general elections for a legislative council, to be conducted under international supervision in order to prevent Israeli interference. The memorandum also contained specific Palestinian demands which the Israeli Government is supposed to embark on implementing, giving practical application to its intentions and announcements. Words alone are not sufficient, and they must be put to the practical test.

One of the issues raised by the Palestinian side was the need to implement the fourth Geneva Convention in the occupied territories, in all aspects, to close the detention camps,

to pave the way for family reunions, to abolish illegal taxes and newspaper censorship, and to guarantee freedom of expression and political action. Baker's response to all these issues was confined to saying that the United States is ready to help build bridges of confidence between you, as Palestinians, and the Israelis. Faced with this American stance, we pause for clarification.

First, what the Palestinian side is demanding does not fall under "measures of confidence building" between the occupation authority and those living under occupation. Rather, it demands issues that international law guarantees for people under occupation. The American administration, therefore, must observe that Israel's commitment toward these issues is a duty and not a favor of a category that would open the way for mutual measures to improve the atmosphere.

Second, the present Israeli Government, while always declaring its desire to arrive at a permanent political settlement, has the duty of building confidence not only with the Palestinian people but also with the Arab world. This government must leave aside the sweet talk it is addressing to the world to ameliorate the image of Israel, and start the process of actual implementation. For, it is only by implementation that intentions and objectives become clear.

Third, the Israeli Government and the American administration, the sponsor of the negotiation process, should know that exerting pressures on the Palestinian side will not push the negotiating march forward. On the contrary, it places obstacles and difficulties before it. The Palestinian side is demanding the institution of the national legitimate rights of the Palestinian people; those rights that can never be overlooked if a permanent political settlement is to be reached.

Finally, it must be stressed that the Palestinian side is interested in a purposeful and meaningful negotiating process, and that it will always be prepared to push it forward, as long as it does not erode or melt the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people.

PLO Spokesman Doubts Rabin's Priorities

92AE0515A London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 19 Jul 92 p 5

[Article by Muhammad 'Ali al-Qulaybi]

[Text] Tunis—Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman, a PLO official spokesman, affirmed that the aim of Yitzhaq Rabin, the new Israeli prime minister, is basically to obtain U.S. loan guarantees.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, the official said the Palestinian leadership will meet next Tuesday and Wednesday in Tunis in order to appraise the situation, study the recent developments, and prepare a Palestinian action program for the coming round of talks. The leadership will also discuss coordination between the Arab delegations participating in the peace talks, particularly since these delegations will hold a meeting in Damascus on 24 July which will be attended by Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, and Morocco.

Regarding U.S. Secretary of States James Baker's visit to the Middle East which begins Sunday, 'Abd-al-Rahman said the visit is a continuation of the U.S. role in the peace process in collaboration with Russia.

He added that, following the changes that took place in Israel and Rabin's announcement about his readiness to give momentum to the peace process, Baker is coming in order to discuss the resumption of peace talks in light of the new developments that resulted from the recent Israeli elections.

'Abd-al-Rahman said Baker will meet with a Palestinian delegation headed by Faysal al-Husayni on 20 July in Jerusalem. The delegation will submit "our comprehensive views on the issues under discussion in order to give momentum to the peace process and to resume the negotiations in Rome at the earliest." He stressed that "there is no need to reaffirm our stands that are well-known to all. Halting settlement is a basic condition for the negotiations to succeed. The negotiations cannot succeed with a cosmetic operation that Rabin's government might carry out in order to obtain the U.S. loan guarantees. The required halting of settlements means halting the existing settlements on the land, and not to talk about crazy settlement programs that were on Shamir's and Sharon's desks that have led to their downfall in the elections."

The PLO official spokesman said halting settlement means removing and dismantling the existing settlements in all the Palestinian and Arab territories. Peace will not be achieved while settlement buildings are standing on our occupied lands.

'Abd-al-Rahman said Rabin is anxious to obtain the U.S. loan guarantees more than he is anxious to achieve peace. Motivated by this desire, he is trying to offer a "bait" to the U.S. side. "But," he added, "we will review the entire situation from the standpoint of preserving our Palestinian and Arab interests. We will not be carried away with the current rejoicing over categorizing Rabin's government as a peace government, at a time when al-Najah University is under siege and 5,000 Palestinian male and female students are facing difficult and grave conditions."

'Abd-al-Rahman stated that the Palestinian side is "serious about the peace process and is continuing with it in accordance with the invitation letter and the letter of guarantees; it will not accept any changes in the negotiations schedule nor in the priorities proposed therein."

He said the seriousness required from Rabin should be demonstrated at the negotiations table and not in the media. This is not a public relations game; it is far more grave and difficult. It is a question of peace and stability in the Middle East.

'Abd-al-Rahman stressed, "This matter calls for total seriousness in dealing with the issues that lead to peace, and not for the embellishment of stands in order to obtain loans."

The Palestinian side, he added, "is interested in hearing Rabin declare his adherence to Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and implementing them, as well as to the principle of land in return for peace." We haven't heard this so far," he said. And unless the Palestinian and Arab citizen hears this, talk about peace will remain mere propaganda and a public relations game aimed at improving the Israeli image before the European and the U.S. public opinion.

Regarding the PLO's stand on Rabin's call to involve Egypt in the second round of talks, Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman said: "Egypt is a fundamental partner and is participating in the peace process. It has never stopped doing so since the Madrid conference and up to this day." The Egyptian foreign minister has participated in the Madrid conference as well as in the multi-lateral talks. Regarding the bilateral talks, Egypt is participating in Arab coordination, but Egypt "has no occupied lands." It is participating in strengthening the Arab stand and coordinating between the parties concerned. This is what will take place at the Damascus seven-nation meeting on 24 July at which the Arabs will reach a unified plan for the negotiations.

*Strategy Precludes Confederation With Jordan

92AE0515B London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 19 Jul 92 p 18

[Article by Salwa Ustuwani]

[Text] The Palestinian factions in the Syrian capital are preparing for the plenum meeting the PLO is intending to convene the day after tomorrow. The meeting will include the Presidium of the Palestine National Council [PNC], members of the PLO Executive Committee and Fatah Central Committee, and the secretaries general of the factions of the Palestinian revolution. This is in addition to a delegation representing the Palestinians inside the territories. A spokesman for the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] said the aim of the meeting is to draw up a unified strategy in order to deal with the coming peace process in light of the proposals which Yitshaq Rabin, the new Israeli prime minister, has put forward. The aim is also to prepare a Palestinian working paper that would seek to preserve unity in their ranks, and have it endorsed so that all will adhere to it in the coming stage of negotiations.

The Palestinian source said the unified Palestinian meeting will draw up the outlines for conducting legislative elections in the occupied Arab territories that would serve the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, and give the Palestinians who were residents of Israel [as published] before 4 June 1967 the right to elect and to be elected, and to take part in these elections, including the inhabitants of Jerusalem. The elections should be conducted under international control and protection in order to elect 180 members representing all the Palestinian territories occupied in 1967. The elected body shall supervise the administration of the occupied territories and place them under autonomous rule, according to the Palestinian views and not the Israeli views.

The source said the prevailing trend in the PLO and in all the Palestinian factions is to adhere to a united Arab stand and a comprehensive solution on the entire Arab front. It also rejects subdividing the solutions and accepts autonomy only under international guarantees that would lead to granting the Palestinian people the right to self-determination in total freedom, and its right to establish an independent Palestinian state. The source precluded any intention at present to establish a confederation with Jordan before a Palestinian state is established and before the proposal is put to the Palestinian people in order to obtain their approval for the establishment of such a confederation in the future.

It should be noted that the DFLP and the PFLP [Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine] have called on the PLO to reject Rabin's autonomy plan and to suspend the coming negotiations unless settlement is halted completely and guarantees are obtained that the transitional autonomy is truly a stepping stone to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state and the right to self-determination.

Algeria

Political Parties React to Assassination Report

LD2707044192 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 26 Jul 92

[Text] There were several reactions from political parties following publication of the report by the commission in charge of investigating the assassination of Chairman Mohamed Boudiaf. The Rally for Culture and Democracy Party noted that the commission of inquiry had acknowledged the existence of criminal shortcomings in the security services at all levels. The Socialist Vangurad Party viewed the commission's conclusions as positive because they open significant scope for revealing the logic, objectives, and results that led to the death of Chairman Boudiaf. The Party of the Alliance for Justice and Freedom also said the preliminary findings were positive, especially because they ruled out the possibility of someone acting on their own.

Commentator on Public Reaction

LD2707092592 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 27 Jul 92

[Text] A careful reading of the preliminary results submitted by the national commission of inquiry regarding the assassination of President Mohamed Boudiaf reveals the following facts:

The assassination of President Mohamed Boudiaf was not an isolated or individual act. The assassination was a meticulously planned act in which services close to the president were involved. These are some of the established facts as submitted by the national commission of inquiry in the assassination of President Mohamed Boudiaf. Nevertheless, public opinion has felt a sense of frustration because it believed that something was missing. What could these missing facts be? Why should there be such feelings? Here now is an attempt to answer these questions by our colleague Brahim Ziouach.

Perhaps the feeling of repression felt by public opinion can be attributed to logical and psychological circumstances. It is certain that public opinion looks for sensational and big events. To be precise, public opinion demands the announcement of names and decisions of detentions and arrests. It demands information about the names of those who have escaped, and other matters that are difficult to limit.

The Algerian people demand, as is its right, to know who planned the assassination of its president, and why President Boudiaf was killed. The Algerian people demand punishment and that heads roll. This wish and these legitimate demands were not reflected in the the report of the national commission of inquiry. First, the gap between the wish of the public and the results of the inquiry was huge. Second, most of the information had already been published by the national press. Therefore, it seems that the commission did not add any new important information. Third, public opinion forgot that the results supplied were only preliminary results that were gathered in a period of just three weeks. Fourth, what is not clear to public opinion is that if the assassination of President Mohamed Boudiaf was a plot, as mentioned in the findings of the commission, this implies the existence of plotters, and they were not named. What is certain is that the plotters have taken measures to deceive the investigation and cover up their acts; a matter that requires the national commission to work with great caution and refrain from issuing hasty imperative judgements. It should work on the basis of doubt and certainty. Fifth, the inquiry has not ended yet. Three weeks is not enough to uncover the issue of the assassination of President Mohamed Boudiaf.

These are some causes that justified the feeling of frustration by citizens following the submission of the commission's report. The following remarks should be noted, however:

1. The commission of inquiry into the assassination of President Mohamed Boudiaf is the first commission since independence that has made and honored its promise within the deadline set for it.

2. The commission presented important findings which suggest that it has worked with sincerity and impartiality. This suggests that it will reveal the whole truth concerning the assassination of President Boudiaf.

3. The national commission, using the most realistic theories, concluded that the assassination was a meticulously planned operation and extends to include, directly and indirectly, other services and persons.

While it is worth praising the work of the national commission and recognizing its difficult mission and the heavy burden shouldered by its members, one should recognize unquestionably the right of the Algerian people to know the whole truth about the assassination of the president.

If the name of Boumaarafi Lembarek no longer has any special impact, public opinion demands to know who plotted the assassination and why. For this purpose and for the sake of protecting the credibility of the Algerian state, it seems that it is necessary to provide all material and human means and possibilities to uncover the truth, and at the same time to announce a means of pledging to supply the Algerian people with the results of the inquiry at a specific date and when something new emerges regarding the assassination of President Mohamed Boudiaf.

Jailed Islamic Front Leaders To Appeal Sentences

LD2607154992 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 26 Jul 92

[Text] A source close to the prosecution today said that the leaders of the banned Islamic Salvation Front, jailed in Blida Military Prison, recently submitted individual

demands to the military court expressing their willingness to appeal their sentences. The clerk of the military court is expected to submit the file to the Supreme Court by next week at the latest.

The same source confirmed that a deadline of one month, subject to renewal, has been granted to the defense and prosecution to submit the memorandum before the Supreme Court.

MAJD Leader Views Call for Political Dialogue

LD2507160992 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Jul 92

[Text] Regarding the activities of the parties, the interim national council of the MAJD [Algerian Movement for Justice and Development] approved a motion in its recent session that emphasized the necessity of opening dialogue and providing suitable conditions to reach a national reconciliation.

Our colleague Foudhil Saadeddine contacted Mr. Kasdi Merbah, leader of the MAJD, a short time ago, and asked him about the chances for success of the dialogue. He answered:

[Begin Merbah recording] The movement's interim national council has analyzed all the situations and events witnessed in the country in the past two years. The analysis has shown that if there were numerous setbacks, including the June crisis, this recent December crisis, and the state of emergency, they were due to the fact that decisions were imposed from the top. The decisions in all the political and economic fields were imposed without dialogue. The regime lacked popular legitimacy, therefore, this led to problems.

In this context, we say that if we want to solve the original crisis, which is the political crisis, to be able to solve the other crises, particularly the economic crisis, then we must first of all establish a dialogue with all the forces that would like to engage in a dialogue. This dialogue should lead to a minimum program, which we could call a crisis program or a national reconciliation program. This should be agreed on by the effective political forces in the country. They should first agree on some basic principles, such as assuming power through elections, alternating power, not using force or violence, and also—and this is an important point—organizing the transitional period that will get us completely out of the single party regime into the democratic regime through popular elections. [end recording]

As for the MAJD movement joining the Patriotic Rally, Mr. Merbah said the following:

[Begin Merbah recording] In fact, we expressed our stance toward the rally in the beginning. We said that if the Patriotic Rally was for rescuing the homeland, then our motto was: A Patriotic Rally to rescue the homeland. This was the motto of the movement. If that was the aim of that rally, then we could study it and participate in it. Or if there was, for instance, a program—as we have said before—a program for the rally, then one could study the participation in and contribution to that rally. [end recording]

FFS Secretary General Discusses Dialogue

LD2707210292 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1130 GMT 27 Jul 92

[Text] The political parties most concerned have not been lining up to react to the conditions of dialogue set by the Higher State Council and that is not because of lack of contact. Only one party has reacted: The Socialist Forces Front [FFS]. It has answered our questions. Let us listen to Bensebaa Djamal, acting FFS secretary general.

[Begin Djamal recording] The reestablishment of stability solely by the use of force has shown its limits. Time has vindicated the FFS; repression seems incapable on its own of resolving a basically political problem of legitimacy. The appeals of the FFS for dialogue and historical reconciliation in the context of a return to the democratic process are still of utmost importance. The FFS takes note of the authorities' commitment to open dialogue with the political parties.

The dialogue, still at the stage of formulation and tied in with conditions by the Higher State Council, was answered by counterproposals by the senior FFS executive bodies on 3 June in a document entitled: FFS Proposals To Pull Out of the Crisis. In particular, we proposed a national contract for democracy based on the principles of rejection of all forms of violence and terrorism, respect for changes in political leadership, respect for human rights, guarantees of political and cultural pluralism, respect of the right to be different, and all parties—including the authorities—refraining from using religion and mosques for political purposes. [end recording]

Hamas Leader Interviewed on FIS, Dialogue

NC2607154892 Beirut AL-DIYAR in Arabic 17 Jul 92 p 9

[Interview with Mahfouz Nahnah, leader of the Algerian Hamas Movement, by Muwaffaq Madani in Algiers; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Madani] What is you opinion of the military court's sentences against the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] leaders?

[Nahnah] It appears that two things were taken into account in these sentences. First, the nation's political situation and the great and profound changes in our Algerian society. These changes were caused by a lot of interference by influential circles in Algeria, and we do not exclude ourselves from this list. In addition, the court did not want to pass sentences so severe as to deepen the differences in the Algerian arena. These

sentences are an indication that the national reconciliation process has started along the correct path. We hope to soon see a final relaxation regarding the democratic process and the acceptance of the principle of rotating authority.

[Madani] The Higher State Council has called for a dialogue with the parties. How do you view this dialogue? Are you involved in it? What would be the FIS position if its leaders were released?

[Nahnah] We are concerned with the dialogue. The dialogue and national reconciliation are a practical response to the appeals we have been making for a long time. [passage omitted]

[Madani] Do you expect a reconciliation between the FIS and the authorities before the dialogue starts?

[Nahnah] We have heard that some parties have mediated a secret dialogue between the FIS, some leaders, and some Higher State Council members.

[Madani] Who are these parties?

[Nahnah] I will not give any details because I do not know all the facts. The important thing is that if were to happen, it would be evidence that the two sides want national reconciliation to be the objective.

[Madani] How do you view the appointment of Belaid Abdesselam as prime minister? Has he asked you to join the government?

[Nahnah] First, we have not been contacted. Second, he was a minister for a long time and close to the Boumedien regime. It is no secret that industrial mistakes were made at that time and these strategic mistakes have caused all these crises and this bankruptcy. Having become chairman of the Higher State Council, he must act to rectify and reform, otherwise the crisis will remain a profound one. Abdesselam, those who preceded him, and those who will come after him cannot effect real and radical reform if they do not understand the true facts of Algerian society.

[Madani] Can real and radical reforms be effected without legislative elections?

[Nahnah] It could happen in some rare cases. Resisting the national will and excluding the citizens' voices show that there are problems. We will resist provocation in the future as we did in the past.

[Madani] Do you have any fear that Algeria is moving toward civil war?

[Nahnah] We warned in March that we were slipping into problems. Our warnings became reality and sedition reared its head in Algeria. President Boudiaf's assassination was the result of old problems. He and Algeria have paid a heavy price for them. But his death has also opened the door for national reconciliation. [passage omitted]

Blida Mosque Closed Because of 'Inciting Speeches'

LD2507125292 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Jul 92

[Text] Relying on what has been mentioned in Blida province, APS reported today that Ouled Aych Mosque was closed on Thursday by order of the governor of Blida.

The source added that the decision was made after the majority of those frequenting the mosque rejected numerous imams appointed by the administration. As for the imams practicing at the mosque, they were closed to the dissolved Islamic Salvation Front. This was reported by those who pray there. They pointed out that Ouled Aych Mosque has been searched by the security forces several times.

The province of Blida said that Ouled Aych Mosque was used as a rostrum for inciting speeches, particularly through the tapes of [Egyptian Fundamentalist imam] Abd al-Hamid Kishk, which were played after the evening prayers. According to the same sources, that behavior made the security forces withdraw the loudspeakers from Ouled Aych Mosque.

Rifles Stolen, Police Captain Shot 23 Jul

LD2507095192 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 24 Jul 92

[Text] Last night, in the province of Blida, five persons armed with automatic pistols stripped three citizens of their hunting rifles, which they owned legally. These persons succeeded in convincing residents that they were Gendarmes, especially because they had arrived in the area in a Land Rover-type car and had a wireless communication set.

Following this incident, the national Gendarmerie command today issued a statement warning citizens against falling into the trap of this gang. It made it clear that the clothes of the Gendarmerie men, their weapons, and vehicles were all of the same type and could be easily identified.

Moreover, the national Gendarmerie command also announced that at about 2230 a Gendarmerie officer, Captain Hor Mohamed, was shot dead in Lakhdaria, about 80 km east of the capital, by an unidentified person. The same source said that the killer had not yet been arrested, while search operations were underway.

The Gendarmerie command explained that the officer had died of abdominal wounds while being taking to the hospital. When the attack took place, he was on weekly leave, wearing civilian clothes, and accompanied by three of his civilian friends.

The Gendarmerie command reiterates that during the events in Lakhdaria last May, a leaflet by the dissolved Islamic Salvation Front had announced the death of

Captain Hor, but the national Gendarmerie had immediately denied the news at the time. The funeral of the deceased will be held tomorrow, Saturday [25 July], at Sidi Bel Abbes.

Bomb Explodes in El-Khroub; Telephone Service Cut

LD2507154992 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Jul 92

[Text] As far as security in the country is concerned, acts of sabotage continue in parts of the country, particularly to the posts and communications services. A home-made bomb exploded at 0100 today in El-Khroub, near Constantine. Our correspondent reports:

Total calm prevailed in the area in and around Constantine yesterday. The calm was broken at 0100 today in El-Khroub, a district of Constantine. According to security sources the calm was disturbed by unknown persons who tried repeatedly to cut electricity supplies, starting at 2345. At 0100 an explosion was heard when a petrol bomb was thrown at the headquarters of the national office for meat distribution. The damage was not severe, however.

The group also set fire to two storage centers for telephone cables. The first was gutted and the other was partially damaged.

Following the explosion the group was hunted by the security forces, but managed to escape. Telephones in the region are still not in operation.

Fires Set at Bus Station, Transformer, Warehouse

LD2707210892 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Jul 92

[Text] Two fires broke out in the city of Ghardaia last night, at the bus station and an electricity transformer. There was also an attempt to set fire to a warehouse belonging to one of the public works companies near the (Les Rostomides) Hotel.

APS, which carried the news, said that the provincial security services in Ghardaia have refrained from giving any further details on these incidents and that the identity of the people who carried out these acts has not yet been established.

Egypt

'Extremists' Stab Alleged Informer in al-Fayyum

NC2707185792 Cairo MENA in English 1742 GMT 27 Jul 92

[Text] Al-Fayyum, 27 Jul (MENA)—Four extremists today stormed the house of an Ibshaway city council civil servant and brutally stabbed him for being a police informer.

The four assailants fled, and the victim was taken to a hospital in serious condition.

Security agencies are carrying out a dragnet operation to find the criminals.

Soldier, Child Killed in Dayrut Violence

NC2707191692 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1844 GMT 27 Jul 92

[Text] Asyut, 27 Jul (MENA)—Extremists today opened fire on a police force in Dayrut, killing a soldier and an eight-year-old passerby, and injuring another soldier, an employee of Dayrut Educational Department, and an 18-year-old student. The attackers managed to escape. The injured individuals have been transported to a hospital and police forces have begun a dragnet to apprehend the culprits.

Curfew Imposed; Police Chief Replaced

NC2807112892 Paris AFP in English 1045 GMT 28 Jul 92

[Excerpts] Cairo, July 28 (AFP) - Security forces slapped a curfew on the southern Egyptian town of Dayrut after attacks by Muslim extremists on police left two people dead and three wounded, the daily AL-AHRAM AL MASA'I reported Tuesday.

Following the attacks, Interior Minister General Muhammad 'Abd- al-Halim Musa fired the local police chief and replaced him with General 'Abd-al-Wahab al-Hilai, who put down bloody unrest in the western region of al-Fayyum.

The Muslim fundamentalist extremists attacked twice in a military-style operation on Monday with shooting breaking out in other parts of the town to create a diversion, the newspaper said. [passage omitted]

The opposition daily AL-WAFD reported that extremist leaflets threatening "to liquidate police officers opposed to Islam" were found on trains between Cairo and the region.

Report Says al-Jihad Military Wing Disbanded

NC2607175592 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 20 Jul 92 pp 7, 8

[Report by Hamdi Rizq entitled: "The Military Wing of al-Jihad Organization Disbanded by a Decision by Safwat 'Abd-al-Ghani and Extremist Leaders"]

[Text] Circular No. 2 for the year 1413 hegira [1992], issued in al-Minya—the hometown of Islamic Group leader Safwat 'Abd-al- Ghani [currently serving a prison sentence in connection with the assassination of President Anwar al-Sadat]—contains a single grim order: The dismissal of the leaders of the military wing and the leaders of propaganda from their posts and firm instructions to melt [the idea of becoming indistinguishable from the general public].

This circular was issued following the arrest of Jamal Farghali Haridid, 32, the man responsible for the Sanabu massacres. Haridi was second-in-command of the Islamic Group's military wing, after 'Abd-al-Ghani.

The most important reason for the dismissal and order to melt is that Jamal Farghali was the 10th military wing leader to be captured by the police. Going underground became a necessity.

Reports indicate that the fall of Haridi enabled the security forces to obtain important information on the names of members of the military wing. In the days following Haridi's arrest, security forces arrested over 12 leaders in southern Egypt; more are being hunted down even now.

Another reason for the decision is that for the first time the organization no longer has a leader out of prison. Following the incarceration of 'Abd-al-Ghani, Haridi had been running the organization.

According to security reports, the Islamic Group's military wing is now 11 years old, having been established following the attack on the review stand [reference to al-Sadat's assassination in 1981] and the attack on the Asyut Security Department. The latter attack was waged by elements from the Islamic Group trained by the al-Jihad Organization. The two groups coordinated the two attacks.

Following al-Sadat's murder trials, Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman left prison to form a military wing of the Islamic Group. The al-Jihad Organization selected 'Abbud al-Zumur to be commander of its military wing. However, Shaykh Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahmand chose a method reminiscent of the Muslim Brotherhood's tactics, a "cluster of cells" scattered in many places, with all the strings gathered in his hand, exactly as Muslim Brotherhood General Guide Hasan al-Banna used to do.

The cells had two types of leaders: The first type was called the public leader [amir al-'alan]. This type of leader preaches, provides guidance, talks to officials and police, resolves disputes, and manages the social side of the groups.

The second type is the secret leader [amir al-sirr] of the military wing in the group. Secret leaders are in charge of planning, following-up, training, and carrying out operations.

The secret and public leaders have channels leading all the way to Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman. The public and secret leaders never communicate.

What makes it particularly difficult to arrest the Islamic Group members is that the public leaders operate with two advantages:

1. They do not get involved in any acts of violence. During incidents of violence, some of them, including Ahmad Yusuf in Bani Suwayf, would go and sit in police stations.

2. They are appreciated by the general public because of their involvement in charitable work that has nothing whatsoever to do with violence.

Violence is the speciality of the earth leaders [umara' al-'ard].

Problems arose when internal strife soon broke out in cell ranks. Street fighting broke out among groups members, as happened in the case of Ahmad Yusuf group in Bani Suwayf.

Colonel Bakri 'Abd-al-'Azim, Bani Suwayf security chief, explained the situation. He said that Husayn al-Battuji, a military wing leader, rebelled against the authority of his own commander, Ahmad Yusuf. Yusuf then liquidated al-Battuji in a notorious battle in which eight others were killed.

Shawqi al-Shaykh of al-Fayyum also rebelled against his mentor, Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Raman, going as far as declaring 'Abd-al-Rahman an atheist and ordering his murder. Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman fled the country after becoming aware of the order.

Following 'Abd-al-Rahmand's departure, Safwat 'Abd-al-Ghani gathered men from various governorates to carry out the operation against [former People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Rif'at] al-Mahjub [reference to his assassination]. The men who killed al-Mahjub assembled in Cairo, where Mamduh 'Ali Yusuf, the first defendant in al-Mahjub's case, was in charge. The rise of 'Abd-al-Ghani led to a reduction in the group's internal strife. However, the external threat to the group was mounting.

Ahmad al-Iskandarani, 22, the leader of the military wing in Damietta, was arrested in Spetember 1990.

Nabil 'Ab-al-Na'im, another leader of the military wing of Damiatta, sentenced to seven years in prison in connection with al- Sadat's assassination, was arrested some time later.

'Ali al-Buhayri, 27, leader of the military wing in Mahattat al- Raml in Alexandria, was arrested on 23 May 1992.

Safwat al-Ghani was arrested in November 1991.

Jamal Zaki al-Abi, Ahmad 'Abduh Salim, and Mahmud Shu'yb, all from Asyut, were arrested last year.

Husam al-Battuji was killed in Bani Suwayf in April 1989 by members of his same group. Ahmad Yusuf was arrested in the same year for involvement in al-Shadir incident.

Sabir 'Abd-al-Wahhab was arrested in Qina last July. 'Alay Muhyi-al-Din was killed in al-Haram. Ahmad Jum'ah Kamil was killed in 'Ayn Shams. Ramadan Yusuf of al-Zawiyah al-Hamra', who took part in the assassination of writer Faraj Fudah, was arested.

Other members of the group are still in jail in connection with al-Sadat's assassination, including 'Asim 'Abd-al-Majid, Najih Ibrahim, 'Ali al-Dinari, 'Ali al-Sharif, and others.

The security campaign against the leaders of the military wing has greatly weakened it. The security forces also obtained insignt into the group's plans. While investigating the case of Nabil 'Abd- al-Na'im, the agencies uncovered the group's plans to murder policemen. The plans were approved by Safwat 'Abd-al-Ghani, Mamduh 'Ali Yusuf, and 'Izzat al-Salamuni.

The aforementioned men persuaded Safwat 'Abd-al-Ghani to disband the military wing, letting the members go their own way in seeking martyrdom without the benefit of central command.

Interior Ministry Official Denies Torture Reports

NC2807054192 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2110 GMT 27 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo, 27 Jul (MENA)—Assistant Interior Minister Major General Dr. Baha'-al-Din has told MENA that three police officers and nine non-commissioned officers are serving prison sentences for inappropriate treatment of citizens and disregard for human rights.

Maj. Gen. Baha'-al-Din said several other officers and non- commissioned officers have been suspended from service and face disciplinary action for minor offenses involving human rights. A fourth officer, he added, is in protective custody and is being tried on charges involving inappropriate treatment of citizens and disregard for human rights.

The assistant interior minister said that Interior Ministry bodies have compiled evidence about the behavior of these servicemen and initiated legal action against them, which indicates that the ministry and other state bodies are eager to safeguard human rights and dignity.

Maj. Gen. Baha'-al-Din called on representatives of human rights groups to visit Egyptian jails and meet the imprisoned policemen to verify Egypt's commitment to the rights of Egyptian citizens and determination to prosecute any individual who violates human rights.

The assistant interior minister denied reports that detainees are being tortured in Egyptian jails. He said that these reports are untrue, noting that certain human rights organizations derive their information from the defendants and their lawyers, who make such allegations because they have an axe to grind.

Defense Minister Sees Off 'Salam-92' Peacekeepers

NC2707101392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0745 GMT 27 Jul 92

[Excerpts] Cairo, 27 Jul (MENA)—The first major batch of the Egyptian peacekeeping forces, Salam-92 [Peace-92] consisting of 184 officers and soldiers left Cairo this morning for Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia-Hercegovina, aboard a private plane bearing the UN insignia to carry out its duty of keeping peace as part of the UN peacekeeping troops.

This force will perform its duty to protect Sarajevo Airport and secure food and medical supplies to the people of Bosnia- Hercegovina.

Defense Minister General Muhammad Husayn Tantawi and ranking officers of the Armed Forces saw the force off at Cairo Airport. [passage omitted]

In a speech he delivered to the departing troops, the defense minister said he is confident that each individual knows his duty. [passage omitted]

The defense minister answered questions from reporters and correspondents of international radio and television networks. Regarding a question on limitations in using this Egyptian force and whether it is a force to keep the peace or impose it, he clarified that the limits are wide and large. Along with the forces from other countries, the Egyptian force will participate in the special task of keeping the peace. As we said earlier, our field mission is to protect Sarajevo Airport.

Answering a question on whether the Egyptian forces will actually participate in the fighting forces, he said it is premature to discuss this now, since it depends on numerous factors. We will see what the United Nations asks of us and after that we will reevaluate the stand on the political level and make the appropriate decision.

On whether there is a chance that the number of soldiers in the Egyptian force will be increased, the defense minister said that this depends on the UN request and what agreement is reached.

With regard to the peacekeeping forces and the national, pan- Arab, and peace values it represents, Tantawi said: These values are interlinked. They start with national and pan-Arab values and end with international values. The fact that the United Nations has asked Egypt to perform such a duty indicates the former has great confidence and appreciation for Egypt's role and that of the Egyptian soldier and the Armed Forces, as well as the level they have reached. In addition, it indicates the whole world's trust in these forces. The task is in essence a humanitarian one.

The defense minister pointed out that the Egyptian force does not consist only of members of the Armed Forces. There are elements from the police force taking part and this is the first time such participation takes place in a mission representing Egypt and the Egyptian people abroad. This is something we are proud of, he added.

Answering a question on whether the Egyptian forces' performance during the Gulf war played a part in choosing these forces, General Tantawi said there is no doubt about it. He pointed out that President Mubarak made an announcement when he received the forces telling them that their performance during the Gulf war

was one of the factors that gave the world greater confidence in them. This is why they were chosen.

He clarified that this is the first time Egypt has participated in such a peacekeeping role. He expressed his belief that this choice is merely a beginning. The defense minister affirmed that the Egyptian forces will be ready within hours after arrival to implement their duties, especially since they are fully trained and prepared for this. They are fully equipped and have received ample training. They will be ready to implement their duties once they get to the area of operations.

Responding to a question on the dangers the forces might be exposed to, such as bombs and mines, and how they should deal with this, the defense minister said: I do not believe we would send a single soldier or officer abroad until we have made sure he is completely reliable and the forces are fully trained. This peacekeeping mission is considered one of the easier duties when compared with their performance in the October war and the Gulf war.

Concluding his statements, Tantawi expressed his hope that the Egyptian forces will succeed in their mission and return to the homeland after hoisting Egypt's name high.

It is worth mentioning that the Egyptian forces' equipment and weapons were sent from Alexandria port over sea on Thursday night to be there and ready for use when the Egyptian forces arrive in their area of operations.

Daily Berates U.S. Stand on Bosnia-Hercegovina

NC2807072692 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0615 GMT 28 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo, 28 Jul (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR has criticized the U.S. stand on the Serbian plot to exterminate the people of Bosnia- Hercegovina, noting that this stand is strange and surrounded with doubts from all aspects.

In today's editorial, the paper says that U.S. President George Bush canceled some of his election campaign meetings to discuss with advisers preparations for launching a military strike against Iraq if it continues to deny the UN inspection team entry into the Ministry of Agriculture. It notes that this issue could have been studied more thoroughly because it did not entail imminent danger requiring an urgent military solution.

At the same time, the paper says, Bush deals with the planned and organized massacre of the people of Bosnia-Hercegovina with complete indifference and rejects any military intervention to rescue a people threatened with destruction.

The paper points out that the United Nation's stand on the crisis also is strange. The UN secretary general, it says, refuses to allow the UN observer forces to supervise the collection of heavy weapons being used in the attempts to wipe out the people of Bosnia- Hercegovina.

Concluding its editorial, AL-AKHBAR says that the Bosnia- Hercegovina crisis has dragged on and that its tragedy is worsening, while the international community is contented to remain as a spectator, giving some words of sympathy and comfort.

Russian Foreign Ministry Official Pays Visit

Recieved by Musa, Others

NC2607121892 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1023 GMT 26 Jul 92

[Text] Alexandria, 26 Jul (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has received a message from his Russian counterpart Andrey Kozyrev dealing with bilateral relations and ways of promoting the Middle East peace process. Viktor Posuvalyuk, director of the Middle East and Africa Department at the Russian Foreign Ministry [name and title as received], handed the message to Musa during a meeting today. They discussed developments in the Middle East and the ongoing efforts to give impetus to the peace process.

[Cairo MENA in English at 1107 GMT on 26 July adds: "A session of Egyptian-Russian talks was held today. Ambassadors 'Amr Jad and Fawzi al-Abrashi, who are both assistants to the foreign minister, discussed the latest developments in the Middle East with Russia's Viktor Posuvalyuk."

["According to Ambassador Jad, the Russian official said that his country will continue its efforts to accelerate the peace efforts and find a just and lasting solution to the Palestinian problem. Jad cited the Russian official as saying that his country sees settlement-building in the occupied Arab land as an obstacle to peace and he called for a halt to this activity.

["Ways of bolstering cooperation between Egypt and the Russian Federation in all domains were also discussed."]

Meets Arab League Chief

NC2607203292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1910 GMT 26 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo, 26 Jul (MENA)—This evening Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid met with Viktor Posuvalyuk, director of the Middle East and Africa Department at the Russian Foreign Ministry, who is currently touring Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Saudi Arabia, and Israel.

After the meeting, Posuvalyuk said that the goal of his tour is to present the views of his country, which is one the two co- sponsors of the Madrid conference, to the parties involved in the talks and to listen to their views on the negotiations. He noted that the main goal of his tour is to endeavor to render the multilateral talks, which are an important factor in the peace process and not a substitute for the bilateral talks, successful and to help the parties involved solve the Middle East problem.

Posuvalyuk pointed out that his country will host the meetings of the committee on disarmament and national security in mid-September. The dates and the agendas of the delegations will be set later, he said. He stressed that his country hopes that the negotiating process will pick up speed and that the delegations will move from discussing preparatory aspects to substance. He described the changes in Israel that brought the Labor Party to power as encouraging, saying that it has given us the opportunity to quicken the pace of the peace process. He added: We are before a stage of action and very important discussions and negotiations.

Posuvalyuk stressed that Moscow attaches great importance to the Arab League's role at this important stage of the peace process, noting that the Arab League position was very clear on Resolution 592 supporting the peace efforts in the region. He said that this resolution is very important because it is supported by all Arab countries participating in the peace process.

Posuvalyuk discussed cooperation between the Arab League and Moscow, saying that Russia is considering coordinating efforts and cooperating with the Arab League at this stage. He described 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid as a prominent and wise international personality.

Notes 'Useful' Talks

NC2707143392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1207 GMT 27 Jul 92

[Excerpt] Cairo, 27 Jul (MENA)—Viktor Posuvalyuk, director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Middle East and Africa Department, has said that in its capacity as one of the sponsors of the Middle East peace negotiations, Russia "places special importance on the Egyptian role in the peace process and greatly appreciates President Mubarak's balanced and wise policy" on this issue.

The Russian official said that his talks in Cairo were "useful," adding that they are part of Russia's active contacts with Egypt on the peace process. He said that the consultations will continue because they are an important part of the ongoing collective efforts to reach a just settlement of the Middle East issue and establish a lasting peace.

In an interview with MENA, Posuvalyuk said he was totally satisfied with the results of his talks with Egyptian officials, pointing out that his meeting with Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid was "useful and very necessary."

Responding to a question about the purpose of his current tour of the region, Posuvalyuk said that he has two goals he hopes to achieve with the tour. First, to coordinate efforts in settling the Middle East issue. He explained that as a "mediator," Russia wishes to talk directly with the parties involved in the bilateral and multilateral peace talks; that is, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and Israel. As for the Palestinians, Posuvalyuk said that several meetings have been held with PLO members in Moscow, adding that he will hold more talks with Palestinians during his tour. He noted that he also sought meetings with two parties not directly involved in the peace process but which are, nonetheless, very important, namely Egypt and Saudi Arabia. He noted their "important influence on the peace process."

He said that his second goal is to discuss the promotion of bilateral ties with all the parties and to resolve any problems that might exist between Russia and any of these parties.

Posuvalyuk discussed ties with Egypt, saying that Egypt and Russia have long enjoyed bonds of friendship and cooperation. He added that the Russian people take pride in the countries' longstanding relationship. [passage omitted]

Departs for Israel

NC2607211592 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2033 GMT 26 Jul 92

[Excerpt] Cairo, 26 Jul (MENA)—Viktor Posuvalyuk, director of the Middle East and Africa Department at the Russian Foreign Ministry, left Cairo for Israel this evening after a three-day visit to Egypt. [passage omitted]

Arab Patience, Perseverance at Peace Talks Urged

NC2607143692 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 26 Jul 92

[Commentary by Ahmad al-Razzaz: "Restoration of Rights Cannot Be Achieved by Kicking Against Rocks"]

[Excerpts] While following up with interest the meetings of the cordon states and the countries involved in the Middle East peace process, Egypt's outstanding diplomatic offensive to regain control of the Tabah area came to our mind. If this small area was a symbol of a national will to refuse to surrender one of our legitimate rights, this offensive, including the international arbitration procedures we had to go through, reflected a spirit of determination without any agitation, tension, or overreaction. Had we handled this legitimate issue by kicking against the rocks, the other party would have benefited and we would have lost our right. This is something we have learned from the difficult, tiring, and bitter negotiating battle. We followed the correct course. Had we strayed form that course, we would have lost our rights.

We are currently facing an historic era marked by difficulty and sometimes cruelty, an era that requires patience and perseverance. This is particularly true because we are negotiating over areas thousands of times larger than Tabah. The task facing us Arabs is to restore what has been taken from us. It is a road covered with thorns. We must walk it together. If the purpose of the Damascus meeting of the Arab cordon states—Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and Palestine—was to coordinate stands and eliminate discord, differences, and contradiction, we have begun our journey with full understanding

and confidence. Egypt, which is concerned with attaining a just, comprehensive, and lasting settlement in the Middle East, also participated in the Damascus meeting. However, to have conflicting stands, as evident in the differences among this group over joining the multilateral peace talks because, as the Arab states that boycotted these talks say, they are futile since the bilateral talks held in Washington did not produce the minimum acceptable results. [sentence as heard] We completely disagree with this view, because by exploring Israel's views during the multilateral talks we can understand how to go after our rights. We know the strategy and way of thinking of the other party involved in this issue.

Now we are facing a new political reality generated by the changes brought about by the recent Israeli election. Regardless of degrees, the fact is that a change has occurred, and we have to deal with this new reality. Under the new government of Yitzhaq Rabin, Israel has presented itself to the world as a peace-seeker. It has placed the ball in the Arab court by expressing its willingness to hold summit meetings with the Arab leaders involved in the Middle East conflict. Israel knows that not all Arab parties will take such a step; some even boycotted the multilateral peace talks. We are not telling the Arab parties to which Rabin referred to respond to this invitation so as not to be accused of intransigence or of obstructing the peace process. What we are saying is that we Arabs must learn from the Egyptian-Israeli negotiating experience over Tabah and note how the Egyptians, through patience, determination, and understanding, succeeded in restoring this right, which symbolized an Egyptian and pan-Arab national demand. This is particularly true because surrendering a single inch of the land would be a relinquishment of dignity and national sovereignty. Through its peace initiative, Egypt managed to restore 95 percent of the Arab territories occupied by Israel after the 5 June 1967 aggression; that is, Sinai. Egypt restored its territories in full without abandoning any right. In addition, the peace it concluded was not a surrender. [passage omitted on Egypt's victory in October 1973]

An important fact to remember is that military battles last for a few days; peace battles sometimes require years. This means that we need to be just as steadfast in our efforts to achieve peace as we are when confronting a party militarily. Thus, our approach during the coming stage must be based on understanding, coordination, patience, and perseverance and must completely shun overreaction and tension. We Arabs have missed many things, some because of our own deeds, such as the reckless acts committed by the ruler of Iraq, who has caused the Arabs to lose tremendous opportunities since his aggression against Kuwait in 2 August 1990. We Arabs must not pay much attention to such discordant voice in the Arab world. Such voices always seem to emerge when we are about to make important decisions in our quest to restore our rights. Thanks to political oneupmanship, we have missed certain opportunities which, had they been taken advantage of, would have helped us achieve what we are trying to achieve now. The restoration of rights cannot be achieved by kicking against the rocks.

Libya

Direct Negotiations With U.S., West Urged

LD2707113892 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0955 GMT 27 Jul 92

[Text] Tripoli, 27 Jul (JANA)—Today's issue of AL-ZAHF AL- AKHDAR published an article by Muhammad Salim 'Ali in which he called for direct negotiations with the United States and the West. He stated that there is no need for mediation. The article reads:

"Yes for negotiating with them:" (? We have no problem) either with the United States or with the West. On the contrary, we are a civilized state that possesses fundamentals with which it can establish balanced relations with other states. Why, therefore, should there be mediators between us and the United States, France, and Britain? Why should we not go to them directly? Why should they not come to us directly? They have interests with us, and we have interests with them; hence our interests are reciprocal. We are suffering neither political nor economic problems, consequently we are capable of establishing amicable relations based on balance and equality; and there will be beneficial relations. Yes, what is our problem with the United States, France, and Britain?

In reality, there is no problem between us and them. However, the Arab mediators, traders, political brokers, and vagabonds were the ones who tarnished our reputation deliberately, and harmed us intentionally to rob us and consequently extort from those states.

The writer added that those mediators, who always made sure that we would have continuing differences with those states so as to practice their hobby of lies amid this charged atmosphere, are agents and brokers who are deceiving these states, primarily to show them their importance, and make these states realize that they are eager to provide them with a service. They are liars; they fabricate falsehoods; they distort facts and defame our image in the eyes of these states.

Why should we use these mediators between us and these peoples? Their own concern is to establish "markets" for their goods; they are known for their incomparable hypocrisy. Suffice it to say that their origins stem from the Middle East—the hotbed of political deceit, lies, distortion, and striving to achieve goals even at the expense of their children and families.

What is more, we are strong and powerful; we live in a civilized country ruled by ethics and values; we live in a society devoid of all the sick surroundings in which those mediators were brought up. If that is the case, why should we not go and negotiate with these states directly?

Why should we let the mediators of evil and traders of relations play their filthy game against us and against these states?

The writer of the article said that the Libyan negotiator is the only who can speak with everybody while holding his head high, with a strong frame of mind, a confident spirit and high morale. First of all, he belongs to a country of the masses in which the power, wealth, and arms are controlled by the people. It is a country that has material and moral solutions to a number of the world's problems. Consequently, if these developed states were seeking the same goal, they are therefore in agreement with Libya, and not against it. What exists between Libya and these states is a mere misunderstanding perpetrated by the Middle East mediators (? who deal) in lies, falsehoods, distortion of facts and gambling with the destinies of the peoples.

He added: Yes, the Libyan negotiator can talk, confident in the knowledge that he is being supported by an armed people, ready to die in the defense of its land, honor, and dignity. He is supported by more than one million fighters. Behind him is warm sea that could turn into flames that would destroy everything green and dry if this people is threatened by any side.

What do we need to put our cause or the solution of the crises between us and these states in the hands of the traders of lies, who were brought up according to the ethics of the Middle East. These states have ascertained that these ethics are false, low, and dirty; and that these dealers use interests to achieve their own goals and not those of noble ethics and values.

Yes. Let us go and negotiate directly with the United States, Britain, and France. Let us reach a deal with them ourselves. These are civilised states that understand the law; they have their ethics which have nothing to do with the ethics of the dealers, agents and brokers of the Middle East. I am convinced that we will be able to reach an agreement with these states and solve any pending problem between us.

The writer of the article concluded his article by saying he is certain that together we will establish strong relations in which our and their interests will be based on (" equality) and mutual respect. Why should we neglect this then and let others bargain over us in the name of "a dispute" that is in fact on the way to being solved legally.

We need to clean up our image, which has been tarnished by vagabonds, the professionals of political lies and mediators of evil. Likewise, the United States, France, and Britain need to understand us and get to know us directly—to really know us directly without any mediation.

Article Calls for Withdrawal From United Nations

LD2707155392 Tripoli JANA in English 1421 GMT 27 Jul 92

[Text] Tripoli Nasir [July] 27 JAMAHARIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The natural person has freedom to express himself even if, when he is mad, he behaves irrationally to express his madness. The corporate person also is free to express his corporate identity. (From part one of the Green Book)

[Words indistinct] AL-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR newspaper published an article yesterday under the heading "Call To Withdraw From The United Nations" written by Abu Bakr Salem. The article went as follows:

"I really don't understand how we Arabs have begun to understand things nor do I know how we have begun to measure up understandings and until this very moment I ignore the measuring standards we use in appraising ourselves before we appraise our causes.

So, after we strongly and firmly refused to give recognition and refused to negotiate and refused to settle things with Israel. However, here we are today and all we're talking about now is the peace process with Israel. Thus, after having had one standard of appraisal for things we now suddenly had many. Some oppose such a settlement, other conceptions allow such negotiations and still others give their blessing to such a process. Thus, what used to be was definitely our destiny, was [words indistinct] subjected to each one of our interpretations.

More importantly than all of this is that we now have become bold and daring declaring our efforts openly, all of which are used towards achieving peace with Israel. Not only that, but our meetings seek to arrive at this from the very beginning. I would like to add to all of this that we added all our hopes to finding peace with Israel as if we were the wrongdoers.

The writer of the article went on: "Thus, today in our cities, there is no talk but on the peace process and no worry for us except to send positive indications to Israel which is still and will continue to respond to this process and to respond to these indications by sending planes to carry out aggressive attacks on Lebanon and the people of Lebanon and the cities and villages of Lebanon until its troops will encroach further into Lebanese territory.

Thus, this is the Israelis' concern for the peace process which we Arabs are clinging to. We go to the various rounds of the peace talks concerned about its outcome, yet the Israelis continue to make increased attacks on us.

Indeed, the writer added, the brutal Israeli attacks are taking place at the same time as contacts are being made and the various processes of the peace talks, something which no one can possibly accept.

Please tell us how to do away with our brains and how we are allowing everyone to mock us as a result of what the Israelis are doing and particularly how the Israelis are giving questionable pretexts for their repeated attacks on Lebanon.

How can we agree to the occupation of southern Lebanon by force and forcing the Lebanese people to confront this occupation best exemplified in the Lebanese national movement until the south is liberated. This is a legitimate right for the Lebanese people and it is a legitimate right for all

legitimate peoples a right which is upheld by the international precepts, the United Nations and the Security Council. Indeed, resolutions adopted by the latter condemn the Israeli occupation of Lebanese lands.

Abu Bakr Salem continued "these resolutions clearly and unequivocally call on the Israelis to withdraw from southern Lebanon and that this occupation is straightforward aggression and is unacceptable on the basis of pursuing one faction or trying to bring another into line.

However, despite all these crimes which Israel is carrying out at Lebanon's expense, both land and people, what has the Security Council done?

It hasn't done anything despite these repeated resolutions adopted against the Israelis. This is because the Security Council is incapable of implementing even one resolution and does not budge an inch in response to the attacks and aggressive acts and the Arab blood which continues to flow every day in full view of the world.

Indeed, how can the Security Council force Israel to abide by its resolutions when Israel is not considered like Iraq to be forced into complying with resolutions. It is not Libya, and specifically it is not an Arab country to be forced into complying with resolutions.

Indeed, this attitude of the Security Council is merely part and parcel of the plans to deal a final blow to the Arab world, since they can kill the Arabs with impunity and Arab lands are meant to be attacked.

Indeed, everything proves the Security Council's bias and its congratulatory attitude towards Israeli barbaric actions against the Arab people. Now the Security Council's enthusiasm and its concentrating of its efforts to adopt resolutions against the Arabs are all apparent. What best exemplifies this is its bias against Iraq and Libya.

It is the policy of double standards where here is no objection to Israeli actions, no one will force them to end their aggressive acts nor to withdraw from southern Lebanon.

The writer of the article continued: "this matter is obvious and no one can dispute it. [quotation mark as received] Thus we challenge the Security Council to adopt a decisive attitude and force the Israelis to comply with even one resolution among the 49 resolutions adopted against them repeatedly of which they haven't even abided by one, including Resolution 425 which calls on the Israelis to withdraw from southern Lebanon.

Indeed, our memories do not wane, and Zionist attacks are apparent. We won't be fooled by the repeated claims that the Israelis are aiming at Hizballah positions. However, it is clear that the Lebanese national resistance has regrouped itself to counter these Israeli atacks, it is a resistance which comprises all the Lebanese people thus, soon the falseness of Israeli claims that they are attacking Hizballah positions will slowly become apparent.

Thus, in the face of such claims, is it possible to likewise claim that French resistance to the German invasion was a resistance of one group of people or was it, in fact, resistance by the entire French people? What about the Nazi invasion of Russia? Can we say that it was a resistance of one section of the population and deny that it was a resistance conducted by the entire population? Or is it merely to justify their annihilation and killing of these peoples? Or because they are animals whom are easily expendable? And that the Israelis are from some form of superior race whom will eventually be those to control the Security Council and consequently issue resolutions so this is why they must be attended to with the utmost care?

Faced with this situation, the only available option for the Arabs is to withdraw from the United Nations and instead join an organisation for animals, perhaps then they will receive better treatment.

Thus, in the face of this reality, the Arabs will soon wake up when the Arab world has fallen prey to Zionist control and hegemony and there won't be anything else to negotiate on.

Daily Comments on Arabs' 'Self Interest'

LD2707171292 Tripoli JANA in English 1451 GMT 27 Jul 92

[Quotation marks as received]

[Text] Tripoli, Nasir [July] 27—JAMAHARIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The "AL-ZAHF-AL-AKHDAR" today published an article on one of its' leading pages under the heading "On Which Points Shall We concur?" which went as follows:

"A quarter of a century has passed and we've been acting before talking and sacrificing all we have while knowing that someone is using our sacrifices to their own ends and thus in return was transformed into a mercenary.

For a quarter of a century we didn't exert any efforts our spent any sweat [as received], to reach the day where we hoped to be dignified and standing out. A quarter of a century passed while our only concern was that the Arabs should be one nation, just as God willed and just as he imposed the oneness of destiny. Furthermore, we didn't leave any Arab out of our attempts agitational work and signing, with all we have at our disposal, unity agreements.

Thus, we ask you O Arabs, on what can we concur? For a quarter of a century where we didn't leave one stone unturned in our search for peace for the Arabs. Indeed, we watered these attempt with our blood, so that it would quickly grow, branching out over the Arab world.

For a quarter of a century we kept talking about the permitted and the forbidden for the sake of the nation. We wanted it to be strong, and dear among nations, which would today be creating life and drawing up history.

We called for unity and discovered that it was heresy for the Arabs and we were misled. We found out that these

were nations in constant dissent with another and we ignored this. We called for freedom and we discovered that the Arabs had an inclination for subservience and were lovers of ignominy. We called for liberating land, honour and Palestine and discovered that the Arabs had put up their honour for sale. That they had transformed the lands into gardens and Palestine into a process greedy for peace with an enemy whose main duty is to devour the Arabs, one by one.

For a quarter of a century we acted to prevent the Arab world from failing into oblivion, and to prevent the Arabs from being dispersed, deprived of an identity, until we found out that the Arabs were quite complacent with the situation.

For a quarter of a century, we accepted our disputes, our differences and even our defeats with the hope that they were only temporary and that soon they would end.

The nation cannot go too far and cannot renege on its principles.

Indeed, we never thought of it as wrong and we never dreamt that the Arabs were proceeding as they wished because unity, it seems is a plan based on self interest where everything is done according to calculations.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Meets Rights Delegation, Orders Amnesty

AB2807085092 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1450 GMT 27 Jul 92

[Text] Khartoum, 27 Jul (SUNA)—Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and the Council of Ministers, has ordered the release of all those sentenced to 15 years or less for crimes against national security during previous coup attempts. His excellency also issued a decree halving the sentences of those serving life sentences [as received] and 20-year terms for crimes against state security. This took place today when he met a delegation representing the Sudanese Human Rights Society and the Islamic Human Rights League. The delegation presented a plea to his excellency for the release of those sentenced for crimes against state security.

During the meeting, also attended by RCC member Colonel Bakri Hasan Salih and Dr. 'Abd-al- Hasan [words indistinct], Lt. Gen. al-Bashir confirmed that all trials relating to state security cases will henceforth be held in public and lawyers will be allowed to defend the accused. His excellency denied that any human rights were being violated in Sudan. He said anyone whose rights had been violated should present his case to the judiciary.

Human Rights Official Comments

EA2807064592 Khartoum SUNA in English 0934 GMT 27 Jul 92

[Text] Khartoum, 27 Jul (SUNA)—Chairman of Human Rights Committee here, Ali Ahmad al-Masri, has confirmed the non-existence of any violations of human rights in the country. He said in a statement to daily AL-INQADH AL-WATANI that the salvation revolution has followed the course of tolerance, negotiation, and non-violation of public freedom. Al-Masri stressed that the issuance of the general amnesty indicates that much care is given to human rights in Sudan.

He called on the Arabic Committee for Human Rights, which is conferring Monday [27 July] in Cairo, Egypt, for the conference for human rights to unify its plans and programmes, and to coordinate its work to avoid inconsistent opinions, so as not to be used against the organisation and not to interference [as received] in its affairs.

On the other hand, he explained that the organisation is following with great concern the violations of human rights in Bosnia and Hercegovina, affirming that these violations were committed against the Muslims by exterminating them, pointing that religion clauses [as received] are the same as the international declaration of human rights, and that everybody has the right of freedom without discrimination of race, colour, sex, or religion.

Abuja Delegate: Rebels in 'State of Confusion'

EA2507205592 Khartoum SUNA in English 1730 GMT 25 Jul 92

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 25 Jul (SUNA)—Dr Ali al-Haj [Muhammad], chairman of the Public Investment Corporation and member the government's delegation to last May's Abuja peace conference, has said that the rebellion movement is now undergoing a state of confusion after the fall of its last stronghold in Torit town.

Al-Haj, speaking to SUNA Saturday [25 July] pointed out that John Garang still maintains negative attitude towards the breakthrough achieved in Abuja.

The outcome of Abuja peace talks plunged the members of the rebellion movement's delegation into deep confusion, said Dr al- Haj, pointing out that the head of the delegation [words indistinct] not yet met Garang.

He stressed that any talks on the date of the second round of peace talks should take into consideration the state of confusion prevailing in the rebellion movement. [passage omitted]

Al-Turabi Resumes Duties, Receives Delegations

EA2507205092 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1435 GMT 25 Jul 92

[Text] Khartoum, 25 Jul (SUNA)—Dr. Hasan Abdullah al-Turabi, secretary general of the Popular Arab and Islamic Conference, has resumed his duties in the General Secretariat after God bestowed health on him.

His excellency received delegations from Nigeria, Senegal, and Jordan and discussed with them the concerns of the Islamic nation and the challenges facing it.

Bahrain

Amir Returns From Two-Day Visit to Saudi Arabia

JN2707183392 Manama WAKH in English 1645 GMT 27 Jul 92

[Excerpt] Manama, July 27 [GNA] H.H. [His Highness] the Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah returned home from Jeddah this afternoon after a two-day visit to the Saudi monarch King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz.

During the visit H.H. the amir held talks on the fraternal relations between the two countries, latest Gulf, Arab and international developments in addition to issues of mutual interest. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Romanian President Iliescu Arrives for Talks

LD2507140192 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1320 GMT 25 Jul 92

[Excerpts] Romanian President Ion Iliescu arrived here today on a two-day official visit to Kuwait, during which he will have talks with Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad. These talks will cover the means of consolidating bilateral relations in addition to a number of issues of mutual interest. [passage omitted]

The Romanian president is accompanied by a large official delegation, including Foreign Minister Adrian Nastase, Economic and Finance Minister George Danielescu, Health Minister Mircea Maiorescu, National Bank Governor Mugur Isarescu, and a number of Romanian officials. [passage omitted]

Meets Ministers, Bank Governor

AU2607143192 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1817 GMT 25 Jul 92

[Text] Kuwait City (ROMPRES) 25/7/1992—There already is a political capital in the relations between Romania and Kuwait, and it is high time it were concretized in the economic sphere, underlined President Ion Iliescu during his talks with Kuwaiti officials Saturday, July 25, after his arrival in the Kuwaiti capital city.

Welcomed upon arrival by the head of state, Amir Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, Romania's president was seen off to the residence during his sojourn Fayan [spelling as received] Palace, where he was visited by high officials representing key sectors of the Kuwaiti economy: the foreign minister, the minister ad interim of oil, the minister of finance and the governor of the Central Bank and, in the evening, by the prime minister. The talks showed the Kuwaiti authorities had an attitude of respect for Romania and gratitude for its stance during the Gulf conflict. Romania and Kuwait are undergoing economic reconstruction, which can favour specific cooperation ventures and mutual assistance—is a conclusion that can be drawn from the talks conducted so far. A favourable element is the existing agreements and understandings to which new ones are to be added during this visit.

President Ion Iliescu informed his collocutors about the measures taken in Romania of late with a view to drawing foreign capital. We think Romania must be on the Kuwaiti investment end-users lists provided that specific projects are identified on which we can concentrate, said a Kuwaiti official.

Possibilities for cooperation were examined with the minister of oil. The refining units available in Romania and its privileged location, considering the Black Sea-North Sea waterway, is a favourable ground for intense cooperation, President Iliescu pointed out.

To enable an on-the-spot survey of the spheres of interest to Kuwait, an expert delegation was invited by Romania's president to come to Bucharest.

Talks are also in view on finding ways for the Romanian banking-financial system to be assisted by specialized Kuwaiti institutions.

Holds News Conference Before Departure

LD2607204592 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1753 GMT 26 Jul 92

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 26 July, KUNA—Romanian President Ion Iliescu has expressed his satisfaction at the results of his visit to Kuwait, and affirmed his country's desire to develop its bilateral relations with the countries of the Gulf region in the economic, political, financial, and health spheres.

At a news conference he held before his departure this evening, President Iliescu praised the talks which he conducted yesterday and today with the political leadership and high-ranking officials in the country, pointing to a number of bilateral agreements signed between the Kuwaiti and Romanian sides.

In this respect, he referred to the agreement on avoiding dual taxation, signed between the two countries two days ago, to encourage Kuwaiti investment in Romania so as to benefit from the facilities and incentives included in the new commercial legislations in his country for the purpose of attracting foreign capital. [passage omitted]

The Romanian president touched on the joint cooperation agreement signed between the foreign ministries of the two countries to continue the dialogue and coordination in international gatherings, and also the agreement that the Kuwaiti and Romanian health ministers signed for health cooperation.

He added that it has also been agreed to set up an exhibition for Romanian products in Kuwait, and to formulate an agreement between the Romanian and

Kuwait news agencies for exchanging expertise and consolidating the means of cooperation between the two sides. [passage omitted]

Answering a question on military relations between Romania and Iraq and on reports of the presence of Romanian experts in Iraq, the Romanian president made it clear that these relations existed before the invasion of Kuwait, as they also did between Kuwait and Iraq before these events. He went on to say: "We, however, stood by Kuwait during the occupation and implemented with firmness and determination all international resolutions in this respect." [passage omitted]

Further on News Conference

AU2707190492 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1541 GMT 27 Jul 92

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 27/7/1992—The visit was meant to consolidate the good relations between our countries and to open new prospects, showed President Ion Iliescu at a news conference before leaving Kuwait City.

We have shown our wish to develop economic relations being convinced that there are opportunities and availabilities for it, said President Ion Iliescu.

Such convictions are underlain by the acute need of each of the two countries to work fast for the recovery of the national economy. In Kuwait's case, it needs to remake its oil production potential. As for Romania, it has to solve the long list of difficulties specific to the transition to a market economy. On the other hand, Kuwait's coat of arms is famous through its oil and hard-currency reserves. In its turn, despite its difficulties, Romania has production potential in various sectors. Complementarity on an economic level is an advantage and opens sure possibilities for collaboration.

Romania's geopolitical location is a hardly negligeable element of which the Romanian delegation tried to convince their collocutors. They explained the content of Romanian laws apt to pave the way for foreign capital. Growing attention is shown in Romania to creating free trade zones.

The specific results of the current visit can be found in important documents sealed in the Kuwaiti capital city Sunday [26 July], namely an accord on eliminating double taxation apt to provide for further profit in developing the Kuwaiti capital flow to Romania, a memorandum on cooperation in health care, memorandum on diplomatic contacts and consultations, and ways of cooperation, in international bodies included. An agreement was also signed between the national news agencies ROMPRES and KUNA.

The topics of broad interest—petroleum—was the essence of talks with both the executives of the relevant ministry and the managerial staff of the Kuwaiti company. They concentrated on details regarding the resumption of petroleum imports from Kuwait, and on the Romanian offer for the refining of crude in Romania units.

After the appreciated participation of our experts in recuperating the wells' fire, the Romanian side showed willingness to continue a good collaboration that can be transferred to recovering the oil fields in Kuwait.

The stimulation of commercial exchanges led to the idea, shared by both sides, of arranging a comprehensive exhibition in Kuwait that is to display as many Romanian offers as possible made by state-run or private companies. The growing number of private producers in Romania's foreign trade is assessed as particularly important and beneficial.

Aspects linked to oil deliveries, crediting opportunities, expansion of relations with the Francophone world were also discussed. The creation of certain hard-currency deposits in Romania is a material possibility for the Kuwaiti relevant bodies to assist the Romanian financial and banking systems, a matter to be further discussed in Bucharest.

The amir of Kuwait was invited by Romania's president to come to Bucharest.

An important Kuwaiti expert delegation is expected to come to Romania in the near future to find out specific means of action in various domains together with Romanian authorities and experts.

Court Sentences Five Gulf War Collaborators

LD2507162692 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1532 GMT 25 Jul 92

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 25 Jul (KUNA)—The State Security Court today passed prison sentences against five defendants convicted of communicating with the Arab Liberation Front, which worked for the Iraqi occupation authorities with the intention of helping them undermine the State of Kuwait's war operations, and of training with and possessing arms and ammunition. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Commentary Urges Arab Caution in Peace Talks

LD2707213792 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 27 Jul 92

[Commentary by Husayn al-'Askari]

[Text] Informed sources have stated that during his recent tour and meetings with parties involved in the Arab-Israel peace negotiations, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker reached an agreement on a limited Israeli withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon.

Something has emerged that can be described as a preliminary result of the recent tour of the U.S. secretary

of state and his meetings with the parties to the Arab-Israel peace talks. Informed sources have revealed that the U.S. minister obtained a promise from Israel to make a limited withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon to help create a climate that inspires confidence in the intentions of enemy prime minister Yitzhaq Rabin, who is trying to give the impression that he will be less intransigent than his predecessor. This might help move the peace process to a new stage.

This does not, however, encourage one to have confidence in Rabin's intentions. So far his actions have not proven that he intends to take measures to promote faith in his intentions. He announced that he will freeze the building of settlements in the occupied Arab areas, but he also said that there are political settlements and security settlements, the building of which cannot be stopped. Nor can those which have already been built be removed.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker replied to this by saying that there are no political or security settlements and that Rabin has to be clear in his positions. This was considered to be a U.S. rejection of Rabin's interpretations.

On this basis, the Arab side has the right to remain cautious because what Rabin has done until now does not go beyond words. The Arab side to the peace negotiations is eager not to let the opportunity be lost, but the Arabs cannot be expected to make all the concessions.

From this reality, the cautious attitude of the Arab side toward Rabin's gestures is justifiable. Until now, the enemy prime minister has not taken a practical stand under the pretext that he needs time to absorb matters. Yet he knows the truth about everything because his party was a partner in Shamir's government.

There is no objection, however, to waiting and watching cautiously.

Bahraini Amir, Delegation Arrive for Visit

LD2607202492 Riyadh SPA in English 1921 GMT 26 Jul 92

[Text] Jeddah, July 26, SPA—The Amir of Bahrain, Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah arrived in Jeddah on Sunday for a visit to the Kingdom. He was received at King 'Abd-al-'Aziz Airport by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz.

Also at hand to receive the Bahraini leader were Second Deputy Premier, Minister of Defence and Aviation and Inspector General Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, Interior Minister Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, Acting Governor of Mecca Region Prince Sa'ud Bin-'Abd-al-Mohsen and Industry Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Zamil, who will lead the honorary mission accompanying Shaykh 'Isa during his stay.

The amir of Bahrain is accompanied by Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah, Interior Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Khalifa, Housing Minister Shaykh Khalid Bin-'Abdallah Al Khalifah and the Chief of the Royal Cabinet Yusuf al-Dawsari.

Meet With King Fahd

LD2707161992 Riyadh SPA in English 1217 GMT 27 Jul 92

[Text] Jeddah, July 27, SPA—Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz and Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of Bahrain held a meeting at the royal court, al-Salam Palace in Jeddah last night.

The meeting was attended by Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the second deputy premier, minister of defense, aviation and inspector general, Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz the minister of interior, Eng. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Zamil, the minister of industry and electricity and the escorting minister, 'Ali al-Sha'ir, the minister of information and Abdallah al-Sederi, the Saudi ambassador to Bahrain.

From the Bahraini side it was attended by Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah, the foreign minister, Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Khalifa Al Khalifah, the minister of interior, Shaykh Khalid Abdullah Al Khalifah, the minister of housing and Yusuf al-Dawsari, the chief of the amiri court.

Meanwhile, Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz held a dinner party at the royal court here last night in the honour of Shaykh 'Isa and his accompanying delegation. The occasion was attended by Prince Sultan, many princes, ministers and senior civil and military officials.

The amir of Bahrain arrived here on Sunday on a visit to the kingdom.

Saddam Chairs Armed Forces Command Meeting

JN2707140892 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1357 GMT 27 Jul 92

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Jul (INA)—Staff Field Marshal Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, has chaired a meeting of the Armed Forces General Command. Staff General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, member of the Revolution Command Council and defense minister, attended the meeting.

Saddam Discusses U.S., Nonaligned Summit

JN2707170892 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1633 GMT 27 Jul 92

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Jul (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has said that unrestrained and reckless U.S. behavior will lead to the emergence of new elements in the future international balance.

His excellency added that the upcoming nonaligned conference should declare that the advanced states have used all the nations' revenues through colonialism. Therefore, restrictions should not be placed on Third World countries use of technology as human heritage in order to enable them to obtain and amend technology in accordance with their national needs.

During his reception today of Arifin Siregar, the Indonesian president's envoy to his excellency, who gave him a letter from President Suharto inviting his excellency to attend the summit conference of the leaders of the nonaligned countries, scheduled to be held in Jakarta early next September, he urged Third World countries to protect themselves from America and its allies, which intend to distribute influence and authority in the world under a new color and colonialism.

His excellency stressed that it is impossible to talk about world peace without defining duties and rights in a balanced manner.

The president said: As you know, the Nonaligned Movement was established in accordance with principles which are still included in its documents. When the number of the countries which founded this movement was small, and under the prevailing circumstances at that time, the movement was actually nonaligned. The two superpowers and the balance between them used to force each of them to take into considering the movement's trends, its approaches, and circumstances in one way or another. However, when the movement began to expand, and when new members joined it under new international circumstances under which some of the Third World countries became independent, both of the two superpowers were able to infiltrate the movement and influence it.

President Saddam Husayn added: Although the two superpowers were present inside the movement along with the nonaligned countries, and were able to influence it, a form of balance remained among its ranks. However, this balance has occasionally been somewhat disrupted.

His excellency affirmed that the Nonaligned Movement, however, remained closely on its general course of action and not far away from the principles under which it was founded.

As for now, one of the two superpowers has left the summit, leaving the United States as the sole superpower, which managed to control the influence of the other superpower. Meanwhile, those who used to be influenced by the United States are still members of the movement. Some of them continue to host foreign bases, and some of them continue to behave publicly as a satellite of U.S. policy.

He explained that some time in the past the world was threatened with a possible confrontation between the two superpowers, with what that means in terms of the destruction of the world. Now the world is afflicted with America's freedom from bipolarity and its installation as the higher pole. Now, it—and nobody else—is threatening world peace.

His excellency asked: How will the movement behave and will it dare to say what I am saying now? It should be mentioned that I said this on television and in other mass media. How many heads of state and governments will be able to indicate this fact as it is at the conference? His excellency answered that only a few will do this. He said that at the conference many will call for politically adapting to the new international circumstances without specifying what kind of adapting they mean. They will only speak in general terms. By adapting, some may mean what is called "realism" in order to follow the United States and accept what it accepts and rejects what it rejects.

President Saddam Husayn said: We believe that this lack of American restraint will be temporary, and that this American recklessness and reckless behavior will bring to the surface in the future new elements in the international equation. We believe that Third World countries should protect themselves from America and from those who are allying themselves with it with the intention of distributing influence and power in the world under new colonialism.

His excellency added: In our modest interpretation, we believe that there is a need not to place restrictions on Third World countries in their dealings with world technology—which is a world heritage—in order to give these countries an opportunity to transfer this technology and to adapt it in light of national needs. The industrially advanced countries should not veto this endeavor.

He pointed out that it is necessary to say at the Nonaligned summit that the industrially developed countries have not developed through their own capabilities alone, but they have developed through the capabilities of the

whole world, including the world's intellectual and scientific heritage which they have benefited from to realize progress. This has taken place through colonialism and by employing colonialist control to build the technology and industry they achieved.

His excellency stressed that those who developed at the expense of the Third World peoples' rights should pay back by assisting these peoples.

His excellency said that no talk about peace in the world can be made without defining duties and rights in a balanced manner in this world. This should be done through a fixed and unprejudiced document and that is not based on selfish desires. The same position toward the same issues should prevail without double standards or a selective approach.

The president also said: We see many world countries talk these days about certain criteria, but that these criteria are not applied equally, including the UN Charter, with which they are using double standards. For example, they allow Israel to occupy Palestine and persecute the Palestinian people. The U.S. President remembers this issue only for electoral purposes. When election time approaches, he does not remember it or returning the Palestinian people's rights. He remembers it to strip the Arabs of some of their capabilities and the Palestinians of their chances through pressuring the weak Arabs.

He added: When we talked loudly about current historical mistakes, Iraq was subjected and is still being subjected to the worst kind of oppression.

If historical mistakes cannot be corrected, then this should apply to everybody. In this case, Japan has no right to claim the Kuril Islands and no Security Council member state has the right to claim parts of other states. Adopting one standard means that Britain has no right to prevent the Irish from expressing their will and that the U.S. Government has no right to use force to repress the blacks from uprising when they express their rights.

We believe that the nonaligned conference can do much if it wants. Will it do that?

The president noted that this issue is left for the will of the representatives of the states who will attend the summit. However, at the same time, we are confident that the officials in Indonesia, since they embrace the heritage of the beginnings of the Nonaligned Movement, will do their utmost to work in this direction.

For our part, we will participate in the summit effectively, but not personally, because you are aware of and appreciate our circumstances. We do not want to embarrass the summit by asking it to say to America: "Allow Iraq to use its air fleet of planes that are held in other states in order to attend the summit." His excellency said: We believe that the summit could not say this to America. Moreover, the summit cannot remain in open session until the president of Iraq, who is one of the founding members of the Nonaligned Movement, comes on board one of the planes of the Iraqi air fleet which are present in Jordan, Tunis, Iran, or any other state. Such talk might be useful if it is accepted at the summit. However, it might embarrass some of the members of the summit. At the same time, we believe that he who cannot say this, should, at least, encourage he who can say it in order to build on it. Thus, the Nonaligned Movement will gradually restore the spirit of its principles.

The president said: We—I mean the Nonaligned Movement—do not want to seize anyone's rights. The Nonaligned Movement wants to safeguard its rights and the atmosphere under which each country can express its sovereignty without fear. As I understand, the Nonaligned Movement wants its members to live happily in a happy world. It also wants to preserve a glory which it achieved without building it on others' glories. I believe—despite what is being said about the new world situation and the unrestrained forces in it—that the Nonaligned Movement can, if it wants to, express its principles, the foundation principles.

He added: If we were to ignore all other pieces of evidence, one piece of evidence is enough: Those big ones cannot be big ones without others of medium size and influence and without others of small size and perhaps little influence. We exist and God Almighty created us to live freely, equally, and to think freely. It is extremely cruel for man to enslave himself. Man enslaves himself when he is not faithful enough and when he does not stick to his rights as much as he should.

Concluding his remarks to Suharto's envoy, the president said: Convey my greetings to my brother President Suharto and to the fraternal Muslim people of Indonesia, coupled with my wishes for a successful conference. I hope that the conference will remember its original principles along with the required duties under the current international circumstances.

Assassination Attempt Reveals Family Split

PM2707163392 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 26 Jul 92 pp1, 6

[Unattributed report: "Saddam Assassination Attempt Reveals Family Split"]

[Text] Baghdad, SAWT AL-KUWAYT—A report from Baghdad has shed light on some new facts about some aspects of the assassination attempt on Saddam Husayn by Lieutenant Khalid 'Abdallah, the aide-de-camp of his maternal brother Barzan al-Tikriti, who was killed by his son-in-law Saddam Kamil, brother of former Defense Minister Husayn Kamil.

The report says that Lt. Khalid 'Abdallah had an important post in the intelligence service right up to the moment he was killed as he was about to open fire on Saddam. He was one of the main aides of Saddam's brothers Barzan and Sab'awi in their struggle against Husayn Kamil's wing of the family. The report adds that

Khalid worked as Saddam's aide-de-camp for four years (1980-1984) and was then fired as differences intensified within the family with the mounting influence of Husayn Kamil and Khalid's opposition to that influence.

The report adds that certain measures were then taken against Lt. Khalid. He was forced to reside in Tikrit but he transformed his residence into a center for supporting Saddam's brothers in their family feuds. He used business transactions as a cover for his activities in support of the two brothers, to whom he became more attached. The report further says that "the family feud intensified further after the assassination attempt," and that it is not unlikely that Saddam Husayn will wreak vengeance on his two brothers Barzan and Sab'awi on the grounds that they wanted him to give up power. Available information suggests that Saddam may have to expel them from the important positions they hold. The measures may also affect officials loyal to them in the internal and external intelligence services.

The report indicates that Defense Minister 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, who had tried to remain neutral between the Kamil and Barzan blocs, has recently taken the side of Saddam's brother-in-law [Husayn Kamil], who is opposed to any idea that favors reduction of the Iraqi president's powers or his ouster—or even talk of such an idea.

The report stresses that the the failure "by chance" of the attempt to kill Saddam has greatly affected his relations with the main pillars of his family and regime. He now suspects the closest people to him of contemplating his assassination.

National Assembly Views Relations With U.S, UN

JN2707154192 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 27 Jul 92

[Text] The National Assembly has strongly denounced the U.S. Pentagon's threats against Iraq, which are viewed as an act of aggression. In a statement it issued on the U.S. threats against Iraq, the National Assembly said that these threats will not affect the morale of the Iraqi people who have emerged victorious from the Mother of Battles, despite the extensiveness of the 30-state aggression over the last month and a half.

The assembly added that the U.S. Administration has long been interfering in Iraq's domestic affairs, at times under the cover of so-called humanitarian aid to separatist rebel movements in northern Iraq and at other times in the name of the inspection teams. It also affirmed that this administration has not only applied these illegal practices against Iraq, but also has begun to use U-2 planes, which fly from bases in the holy land of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] with the agreement of the traitor of the two holy mosques in order to violate Iraqi airspace for intelligence and espionage purposes and to collect information on Iraq and its capabilities. Iraq, it added, has from time to time informed the United Nations of these violations of Iraqi airspace.

The assembly regretted the international organization's failure to take effective measures to prevent the planes from conducting these flights, which conflicts with the UN goals which stress the equality of each country's legal status. He added that over the past 14 months, Iraq has been eager to cooperate with the United Nations through the inspection teams, and it has implemented UN Security Council Resolution 687. As a result, the inspection teams are carrying out their missions without any hindrance. The latest team, which was headed by Karen Jansen, carried out 11 inspection operations. It also asserted that were it not for Iraq's cooperation with the international organization, the inspection teams would not have carried out their missions.

The National Assembly's statement says: The basic objective of this fabricated operation by the latest inspection team is to distract the attention of public opinion from the crimes being committed by U.S. and British planes, which burned 11,000 donums and destroyed 660 tonnes of cereal. The aggression targeted 718,000 donums in 20 villages and agricultural areas, and caused 46 fires in a studied timing meant to coincide with the harvest season.

The statement stresses that the U.S. Pentagon's escalation against the Iraqi people is premeditated, and that this escalation has nothing to do with the inspection of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation. This is because, in accordance with the so-called new world order, the U.S. Administration wishes to redraw the map of the region in accordance with the perspective of U.S. strategy. The statement explains that the Iraqis' revolution of reconstruction has almost been like a miracle which astonished the world.

Concluding its statement, the National Assembly says: The National Assembly considers the U.S. Pentagon's threats and intimidation to be an act of aggression which contravene Paragraph 4 of Article 2 of the UN Charter which stipulates: In their international relations, all UN member states refrain from the making threats of the use of force or actually using it against the territorial integrity or political independence or in any other way that does not agree with the purposes of the United Nations.

Tariq 'Aziz Views UN Inspection Team Crisis

JN2707185492 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1820 GMT 27 Jul 92

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Jul (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, member of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and deputy prime minister, has said that Iraq—its leadership and people—does not quake before the threats, one half of or one quarter of which would have frightened a superpower. In an interview aired on Iraqi television tonight, Tariq 'Aziz dealt with many aspects of the crisis fabricated by the joint international inspection team upon the instructions of the U.S. Administration and its allies. Tariq 'Aziz said that the people of Iraq expressed their genuine stand when they took to the streets to say their words and to express in a civilized, firm, and clear

manner their support for the leadership, their anger, and their rejection of the hostile American schemes and objectives aimed at insulting Iraq.

Tariq 'Aziz spoke about the motives and intentions of the United States Through this scheme. He said: The Americans did not want to see an agreement reached with the Special Commission. It aimed to escalate the situation to achieve its declared objectives. Meanwhile, Iraq dealt with the situation in a balanced manner, not out of fear of confrontation with America or to prove its courage, as this has become known, and Iraqi courage has become an example to the world.

Tariq 'Aziz stressed that the Iraqis have expressed their opinion about and love for President Saddam Husayn, and their rallying around his historic leadership in a way that Bush and his opinion polls have never known. The Iraqis used to take to the streets every day despite the very hot summer of July, under the known threats and the blockade, and after 100,000 tonnes of bombs were dropped on them by Bush and his allies, to shout in the known Iraqi dialect: "We all love Saddam Husayn, we all want Saddam Husayn."

Tariq 'Aziz added: Thus, the Iraqis expressed their opinion and stand that the issue of national sovereignty, national independence, and dignity are above everything. This is an old Iraqi position since the 1920 revolution.

The deputy prime minister added: Our position in this confrontation was firm and wise. This confrontation will reflect positively in guaranteeing the considerations we sought to secure in our conflict and struggle with the Security Council. When the inspection teams come and request something or act in a provocative manner which includes insults, then the consequences will be very difficult for them.

Tariq 'Aziz answered a question on the agreement that was concluded yesterday between Iraq and Rolf Ekeus on allowing a number of experts to enter the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and on the contents of the agreement and how it was reached. He explained: As is known, on 5 July an inspection team headed by U.S. Army Major Karen Jansen tried to enter the building of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation to inspect it on the pretext that this building contains materials or documents related to the items covered under Resolution 687.

We immediately informed this team of our refusal to allow it into the ministry building because the building is a civilian government building and that as a ministry headquarters it is considered a symbol of national sovereignty. We also explained that we would not allow this building or similar buildings to be treated as industrial sites or installations which inspection teams could request to visit or inspect. This is because this building differs in nature from other sites which could be related to the jurisdiction of Resolution 687.

He pointed out: As it is known, we have accepted that resolution for known reasons despite its injustice, and we have made explanations since the foreign minister sent his message on (?3 May) 1991. I say that despite the unjust nature of that resolution, we dealt with it and the inspection teams practically. Before this incident, these teams visited scores of relevant sites covered by Resolution 687, including industrial institutions and establishments, warehouses, and some military positions, and there were no problems. In this regard, some problems of a different nature took place, which I explained at that time.

The deputy prime minister added: But now, the request made by U.S. Major Karen Jansen, is a strange request aimed at undermining Iraq's dignity and encroaching on its sovereignty. This is why we prevented her from the very beginning and insisted on our position. The situation continued until mid-July. Ekeus told us that he wanted to come to Baghdad, and he actually came. He met twice with Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, minister of state for foreign affairs, on 18 July. He also met with a number of Iraqi experts. All aspects of this issue were discussed. The two sides also discussed the nature of the relationship between Iraq and the Special Commission, the behavior of the inspection teams, and the conduct of some of these teams, particularly when they are led by Americans. You recall the famous stories of the U.S. spy David Kay. For some reason, we said that he was a CIA officer. This team was also headed by a major in the U.S. Army, Karen Jansen. We raised this issue with Ekeus during his meeting with the minister of state for foreign affairs.

Tariq 'Aziz added: The next day, Ekeus met with Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn. He then came to meet with me. I told him: Listen well. I will summarize our position well. We are not hiding any material, documents, or anything related to the jurisdiction of Resolution 687 in this building. It would be illogical for any Iraqi official, who is specialized in this field, to hide such things in the building of a ministry that has hundreds of employees and to which hundreds or thousands of visitors come each day for their transactions. Allow me to say that this planning or view by the Special Commission or the inspection team is ridiculous. This is the reality. Therefore, we do not have any problem with people entering this building.

The deputy prime minister asked: What made Karen Jansen request entering this building? Our assessment is that the objective is to insult Iraq. And this is something we cannot accept. Ekeus said: The Special Commission has broad authority that allows it to enter and inspect any facility or site in Iraq. He told me: You know the provisions of these resolutions. They give the Special Commission, in particular, broad powers, but we do not always use them. However, these are the powers. I told him: Listen well. I know this and I know well the provisions of the Security Council resolutions. But, remember well: During my meeting with the Security Council last March—and you were sitting there—I said:

Yes. We are ready to cooperate with the Special Commission to facilitate its tasks described in Resolution 687—and this happened—but on the basis of respect for sovereignty, not threatening the country's internal affairs, and noninterference in internal affairs.

'Aziz added: We agree on these bases. Iraq refuses to allow these bases and considerations to be breached. I told Ekeus that I had said this clearly and unambiguously before all members of the UN Security Council. Therefore, there is nothing new in our position. The position we adopted on this question is a declared one and had been communicated to the UN Security Council. But if there are doubts that this building contains materials or things related to your jurisdiction, I propose that we pick experts from nonaligned and neutral states. I gave him examples, such as India or China, which are members of the UN Security Council. We proposed that those experts enter the building and see what it contains. Afterward, they can go out and tell the press what they have seen in the building. I told him that I was confident that if they entered the building and inspected its documents and rooms, they would find nothing. This is because, as I said, it is illogical that this building be used for the alleged activities that the head of the inspection team claimed. He did not accept this proposal and said that it was difficult and that if those experts agreed to come and if we picked them, they would still be people not trained in inspection. They could be experts in their fields of specialization, but they would not know the style and nature of the work done by the inspection teams.

I told him: This is not essential to us. However, I hope you will adopt this proposal and I will ask our ambassador in New York to inform the Security Council member states of it. He said: This is an important point. These are my observations on the proposal and I did not act against it. Ekeus did not believe in it because when he returned to New York, he declared that the Iraqi proposal was unacceptable. There was a contradiction in what he said to me, to the foreign minister, and to the minister of state for foreign affairs here in Baghdad. There was a difference, and sometimes a contradiction, between what he told Dr. al-Anbari and what he declared at press conferences. This shows the American influence.

The United States always pressures Ekeus and seeks the help of the British and sometimes the French to pressure Ekeus into taking tough positions. The Iraqi proposal was submitted to the Security Council, and the Americans and Westerners took a negative position.

Regrettably, the rest of the delegations did not talk, and they raised an uproar before the Security Council's member states over the alleged threats to the inspection teams and did not invite Dr. al-Anbari to the council to explain the facts as they were.

In this feverish atmosphere, which is fabricated by the Americans and their aides, the Iraqi proposal was rejected. After this, Ekeus met with Dr. al-Anbari and began to propose some solutions to the problem. At the same time, some sources in New York informed us that the three Western countries met with Ekeus, warned him, and reprimanded him because he dealt with Iraq through the give-and-take method of finding a solution to this issue. Despite this, he met with al-Anbari on 22 July and sent us some ideas and proposals to tackle the crisis. On Thursday, 23 July, we sent our reply to Ekeus' ideas in a form of an integrated proposal. The proposal is as follows:

First: A group of experts shall be selected jointly by Iraq and the Special Commission from states that did not participate in the aggression against Iraq.

Second: These experts must not be from among those who have conducted inspections in Iraq. In this regard, we stressed our previous proposal or our desire that experts from India and China participate in the inspection team. If it happens that these experts turned out to be ignorant of the techniques of the Special Commission, then we have no objection to them being exposed to a technical briefing by the Special Commission.

Third, the Special Committee must inform the group of experts exactly and in writing what it is they will be searching for in the ministry building. They should not come in such a manner so as to search everything and ask for anything. The chairman of the Special Committee should tell them them that he has information that there is this and that in this building—definite information. When the group visits the building—and let us suppose that it does find in the building documents and other things that it deems suspicious and considers to be connected with what the Special Committee informed it about—things about which it cannot make any decision after seeing, the documents and things, having been stamped, must be carried away to an agreed upon place outside the ministry building and inspected there by the group. We have no objection to others taking part in the inspection from those selected. They will not be allowed to enter the ministry but will remain outside.

The other point is that the group will not be allowed to enter the minister's office and the offices of the under secretaries and cannot take any information that is connected with:

1. Employee records

2. Information related to the storage of grain and foodstuffs, the planted areas in Iraq, and any other information that has something to do with agriculture, irrigation, and relevant projects and plans because this information is connected with Iraq's national security and because Iraq is under siege.

This proposal was sent on 23 July and al-Anbari informed Ekeus of it. The latter gave positive impression of the Iraqi proposal but wanted it amended. He said the experts who had not taken part in inspection missions in the past are not known and that we must select a suitable

number of them. He added: If they are not good we have to train them and this takes time.

Ekeus said: In this problem, I am under very strong pressure. At that time, as known, the team was withdrawn from the area of the ministry's building. They also fabricated the story of threats to the team. They created a feverish atmosphere the aim of which was to speed matters up. We said to them: All right, this is a practical matter which can be studied. I mean with respect to whether they have participated or not. The basic and important condition is that those experts should not be from the states that participated in the aggression against Iraq. They should be from neutral states—states which can be considered relatively neutral or objective. In this world, all matters are relative. It cannot be said that all people are neutral or objective. However, they should be from states whose representatives we expect to act in an acceptable manner.

We were interested in persons, not in states only. This is because we have full information about those who previously participated in inspection activities. We know how they behave. Some of them behaved professionally and technically. Others behaved like spies and in a provocative manner, such as David Kay and Karen Jansen.

Ekeus told us that China does not participate and does not want to participate in the inspection teams, and that India routinely does not cooperate with the Special Commission in this regard.

Ekeus' answer was communicated to us. You know that the time difference between Baghdad and New York is eight hours. This means that when al-Anbari meets with Ekeus at 1700, we add to that time eight hours. When it is night, the answer arrives the next day. Ekeus' answer arrived on Friday. It noted that China and India were not immediately ready or not ready in principle to take part in this process.

We wanted to make sure of that. When we received the answer in the morning, the brothers at the Foreign Ministry summoned the Chinese and Indian ambassadors to enquire of them officially, and they asked them: Your excellencies the Chinese and Indian ambassadors. Is that your governments' position, as we were told by Ekeus? We want you to participate in this process. On the evening of Friday, while we were following up this proposal, Ekeus' proposal approached our original proposal on 23 July. This remained so until it was announced that Ekeus was to give a press conference, and he announced on U.S. television that time was short, that the situation was critical, that the Special Commission has powers, and that the inspection team was physically threatened. All this talk was meant to escalate the situation, and it differed from the talk that took place between him and Dr. al-Anbari on the previous day.

Dr. Sabah Yasin: The measures which took place meant that an agreement was reached and that the press conference interrupted that agreement?

Tariq 'Aziz: No, it was not interrupted. We watched U.S. television. After Ekeus concluded the press conference, he came out and began talking to White House Spokesman Fitzwater. He talked in a prudent manner, and made many mistakes, and announced that Bush had changed his opinion and instead of going to his personal retreat, he went to Washington and then to Camp David and that he would meet with his aides. This means that they created an atmosphere to justify speeding up discussions on the issue. The objective discussions, which we were held with Ekeus on logical bases, did not take their time and did not reach the Security Council's member states.

Dr. Sabah Yasin: Baker also made statements throughout his tour.... [as received]

Tariq 'Aziz: Baker echoed what was said by Bush and his aides in the United States. Through this atmosphere, they wanted to put pressure on the Special Commission and the Security Council. In accordance with the diplomats' reports in New York, the members of the Security Council were excluded from the contacts. We were the only party that communicated the situation, developments, and proposals through our ambassador who was preoccupied with following the developments. However, despite the escalation and ridiculous threats because of our balanced and logical proposal to tackle the issue, we said: All right. Let it be so, since the search for new experts will take a long time and so that George Bush will not benefit his election campaign and his show by this time. The important thing is that the experts should be from countries that did not take part in the aggression against Iraq and we should see the list of experts. And, if China and India want to participate, they are welcome, and we will add them to the list. However, if they inform us that they do not want to participate, we will do without them. There are Russians in Baghdad; and we proposed that two of those working with Ekeus would join the experts who would enter the ministry building.

They were informed. Later, the Chinese came and said we apologize for not participating. We have our stand on this issue. Basically, we do not participate in such actions. The Indians gave us no answer.

During this period, the give-and-take process, and the discussion about names of experts, a list of whose names Ekeus sent to us, we expressed reservations about some of them. Ekeus began to adopt an illogical hard-line position. For example, he insisted that one of the experts is unrivaled. Unrivaled? How? No, we know him, and our colleagues who work in this field know these people well and know their caliber. However, it is clear that there were political demands imposed on Ekeus. This argument continued on Saturday. On Saturday, we informed them, and the situation became very tense. This is because Ekeus began to adopt a hard-line position in an illogical and fabricated manner. After this, contacts and talks between us—we in Baghdad, and them in New York—were severed. A proposal then was made to the effect that Ekeus would be the one who would come to

Baghdad. The objective behind Ekeus' visit, as our ambassador in New York told me, was to guarantee responsible behavior by the group which would enter the building in his presence, and to prevent the occurrence of any act about which we would complain, or that might conflict with what was agreed upon.

The experts who would enter the building were: A German, a Swede, a Swiss, another German, a Finn, and a Russian. It was decided that those six would enter the building. They would enter the building the way I explained.

Dr. Sabah Yasin: After the announcement of an agreement between Iraq and the Special Commission, American quarters stated that they achieved the declared objective, which was the inspection of the building. At the same time, Ekeus announced that it was going to be a routine inspection. How does your excellency assess these theatrical American statements in view of the commitment of the Special Commission?

Tariq 'Aziz: As I said, the head of the team was American. The provocative approach that she and some of the Americans in the team pursued was an American approach. Therefore, now that we have reached this agreement, they want to appear as if they achieved their objective of entering the building. This is not true. This is American buffoonery and nonsense. To say that the process is a routine inspection is equally inaccurate. The inspections that took place at installations in accordance with Resolution 687 were different.

First, we do not obstruct the activity of a team when it comes to visit a factory. We routinely agree. The team asks many questions and tries to accurately learn about the existing materials. It looks for files and information within the jurisdiction of the team. Such matters took place and we did not interfere with the selection or nationalities of inspectors. As I explained, the current process is different. We have agreed on every step in this regard with the head of the Special Commission. Therefore, it is not a routine inspection, as was said. The U.S. objective of provoking or insulting Iraq has not been achieved.

Dr. Sabah Yasin: Will the inspection be conducted in a different way?

Tariq 'Aziz: Yes, I have explained this. This method, from beginning to end, is completely different. This is a special case and was tackled in a special way. As we said, it never happened in previous operations that Iraq participated in choosing experts or made observations about them. We never imposed, as a condition, that the experts be from certain countries or of certain nationalities. It never happened before that the head of the Special Commission came personally to Baghdad to supervise or to guarantee, and we guarantee through him, the pledges he gave. All these are new formulas that are in harmony with the nature of the issue itself.

Dr. Sabah Yasin: Let us speak frankly about this crisis which began on 5 July when Iraq decided to prevent the inspection team from entering an Iraqi ministry building that represents national sovereignty. Does your excellency believe that the way in which this crisis was dealt with has reiterated Iraq's stand or have the results showed a retreat in this regard?

Tariq 'Aziz: I am glad you have asked this clear question because the matter should be explained. Resolution 687 was imposed on Iraq. Our stand and view on this resolution is known. However, because of reasons known by our people Iraq accepted this resolution and dealt with it. Iraq accepted this resolution two years after the unjust blockade imposed on Iraq, after an aggression the likes of which never happened before, and after Bush dropped more than 100,000 tonnes of bombs and explosives on the people of Iraq.

What does it mean to reject the demand made by Karen Jansen on 5 July, to insist on that rejection, and to force the Special Commission to reach a balanced resolution to deal with this issue after 22 days of military threats, threats to renew attacks on Iraq, threats to tighten the blockade, and a very intensive media campaign, a half or a quarter of which might frighten the big powers. But what happened and people saw it by themselves is that neither Iraq's people nor Iraq's leadership were frightened by these threats. Iraq's people expressed their real position when they took to the streets to say their peace. This is a very important factor in the issue. The people reject the U.S. plan, support the leadership's decision, and express their anger and denunciation of the U.S. plan to insult Iraq.

Dr. Sabah Yasin: And their readiness to defend the homeland?

Tariq 'Aziz: Their full readiness and the anger, which was there in the eyes of Iraqi women, men, and children who saw Mark Silver, head of the second team and Karen Jansen's deputy. Others saw the Iraqi anger in the eyes of the Iraqi citizens who were expressing their position before the inspection team, which claimed that the citizens came to threaten it physically. This is untrue. The Iraqi citizens behaved in a civilized way. Yes, they strongly expressed their anger, but the behavior was civilized and the security organs took every precaution for fear that an agent might do something. Therefore, precautions were taken to protect these inspectors.

Yes, Iraq achieved positive goals from this confrontation, and I say that this is due to the positions of the Iraqi people and masses—a position which helped the leadership confront this issue strongly and wisely. Dealing with the practical side of matters does not mean a retreat because it is the leadership's duty to weigh all matters and behave in a manner foiling the enemy's goal. The whole process was meant to insult Iraq and harm its sovereignty.

When the Iraqi people reject, when the Iraqi leadership rejects, and when we put the United Nations and the

Special Committee in a position where we force it to talk with us about ways to resolve this problem in a different manner, then this is positive progress if we compare it with the nature of the aggression which was carried out against Iraq, and the nature of the blockade imposed on Iraq. Matters in politics are relative. As I said a while ago, had this pressure been exerted on a superpower, it would have made it accept many things. The international stage is in front of us, so, we can see what is taking place.

The Americans did not like to see us reach an agreement with the Special Commission. The U.S. plan and the U.S. scenario on television were heading toward escalation. They have their own objectives, and they have announced them. Our position was not out of fear of confrontation with America, because confrontation with America had already taken place. Iraq no longer needs to prove its courage. This is a well-known issue. Iraqi bravery has become the best example in the world.

This is not the issue. The issue was how to foil enemy plans. What were its objectives behind this incident? When you discover the true objectives, how do you act to foil these objectives and to tackle the issue in the same balanced way which was reached with the head of the Special Commission?

Dr. Sabah Yasin: Mr. Deputy Prime Minister, although an agreement has been reached between Iraq and the Special Commission to tackle the problem, we continue to hear through the mass media insolent threats by Bush and his aides. They claim that Iraq has finally yielded to U.S. threats. What does your excellency think of that? How do you assess the U.S. position on this crisis as a whole?

Tariq 'Aziz: Before coming to this meeting with you, I saw U.S. President Bush on U.S. television making the statement that he made yesterday—in view of the time difference that I noted earlier. I saw him this morning. In his statement, George Bush was not happy nor satisfied with the agreement. This indicates that he wanted the issue to take another course, not the course that it took yesterday. Therefore, he continues to make threats. The U.S. threats are not only insolent. It is known what insolence means. These threats are often ridiculous. The U.S. election game has become very exposed and very ridiculous. It is related to this crisis. According to the latest statistics and opinion and polls, he has a rating of 22 percent. By these hawkish manifestations he tries to upgrade support for himself and show that he is fit to play again the role of the commander in chief who moves fleets and troops. Therefore, the language that the Americans used before the agreement was for political and media reasons. As for the question of yielding to U.S. threats, the Iraqis have responded to Bush.

Dr. Sabah Yasin: It was a quick response.

Tariq 'Aziz: They also took to the streets to shout their known slogan: "We all love Saddam Husayn." Therefore, Bush wants to show that he sympathizes with the Iraqi people. His statement today means that the government in Iraq harms the Iraqi people. These are the people of Iraq; if you want to know their opinion, then, this is their opinion. This is an opinion poll. Now, how do they explore people's opinion? They ask people by telephone, in the streets, or through specialized agencies about their opinion of Bush. People would be asked: Do you want him as president? The answer would be yes or no. If you take a sample of 500 persons, 22 percent would support Bush. Today, you see the Iraqis in the streets everyday under the heat of July, under this threat, after two years of blockade, and after 100,000 tonnes of bombs, which were dropped on them, shouting: We want Saddam Husayn. This is an opinion poll. If Bush was as democratic, as he claims, and if he respected the opinion of the Iraqi people, he should not speak on their behalf. The Iraqis are a people who do not allow Bush to speak on their behalf. This is an old Iraqi stand, at least since the 1920 revolution. The Iraqis have expressed their opinion and stand on the issue of national sovereignty and independence. This is known. As I noted, since 5 July, when Karen Jansen asked to enter the building until now the play has been American and the actors—Ekeus and others—are actors in this play. They, sometimes, stick to the text and other times depart from it, as our friends the actors say. They sometimes depart from the text for personal considerations. The shame, however, is the contradictions in which they put themselves. Ultimately, the play is American.

Dr. Sabah Yasin: In light of your responsibilities and experience in dealing with the international institution, the Security Council, how do you assess this process and how do you view the future relations between Iraq on one hand and the Special Commission and the Security Council on the other?

Tariq 'Aziz: During my visit to New York and my meeting with the Security Council, we defined the bases on which we would cooperate with the Security Council. We said that we had accepted certain matters despite their unjust nature. We accepted them to save our people from harm, and we sought to remove pretexts to continue the blockade against Iraq. But there are matters that we will not accept, matters related to national sovereignty, excesses, and provocations. We do not accept such matters, including interference in domestic affairs and issues related to the country's internal security. We will not allow these matters. Since last year and the application of the resolutions, we have been in continuous conflict to guarantee these matters. In light of my experience and that of my colleagues in the field, I believe that this confrontation was very useful because it revealed power. It was a useful confrontation. They wanted to achieve goals, and we took a strong and wise position at the same time—a wise position because we ran the process, taking future relations and the nature of the confrontation. This means that when an inspection team comes and behaves in a provocative manner and tries to insult us, it will know that the consequences will be very difficult for it. The entry into a building took 22

days, including all that happened. I believe that this experience will reflect positively on guaranteeing the considerations which we have been seeking in our conflict with the Security Council.

Dr. Sabah Yasin: Mr. Deputy Prime Minister, can we learn lessons from this crisis and the way it was tackled, particularly by the Iraqi side?

Tariq 'Aziz: Yes, I believe that the major lesson in this confrontation is the lesson that we can learn from the role of the masses. We have no doubt that the masses are with the leadership. This is because the leadership is with the country's independence, with the dignity of Iraq, and with the prosperity and steadfastness of Iraq. This is known. The leadership has been leading the country for 24 years. The Iraqis know the leader and the leadership, just as the leader president described them in more than one occasion. However, what counts is the expression. Facts are always there. However, if they are not expressed appropriately and at the proper time, they will not be as effective as they should be. the masses' position toward this issue and their full support for the leadership's action, for its hard line when necessary, and for its flexible position when flexibility is needed, provide full support for the leadership's position, which basically seeks to safeguard Iraq, its dignity, and sovereignty. But this also provides the leadership with a balanced and practical behavior and enables it to calculate all considerations. This is the most important lesson. This is because this exposes the entire U.S. scheme.

Dr. Sabah Yasin: It foils it.

Tariq 'Aziz: Yes. The U.S. scheme is, which they express daily, targeting the leader, the leadership, and the revolution, the approach of the 17-30 July revolution in all its aspects. Their objective is, God forbid, and this will never take place with the help of God and the Iraqis, turn Iraq, just as they turned many Arab and non-Arab states, into ranches for their interests and spies. They want to humiliate the people of these countries and harm their basic interests. When the Iraqi people adopt this position after two years of the blockade and this fierce aggression against them, then, as a citizen before being a member of the leadership, I believe that this is the most important lesson. As a citizen, I can say that this is one of the most important lessons and signs which appeared in this confrontation.

UN Special Commission Chief Ekeus Arrives 28 Jul

JN2807085092 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0843 GMT 28 Jul 92

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Jul (INA)—Rolf Ekeus, head of the UN Special Commission, and his accompanying delegation arrived in Baghdad this morning.

Ekeus told reporters that he came to Baghdad to discuss future arrangements and continued cooperation in a way that will satisfy Iraq and the inspection teams.

UN Employees' Home in al-Sulaymaniyah Attacked

NC2707174392 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1705 GMT 27 Jul 92

[Text] A house used by a group of UN employees in al-Sulaymaniyah was attacked at 0445 today. No casualties were reported.

Popular Forces Official Assails Blockade, Threats

JN2807114892 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 28 Jul 92

[Text] Sa'd Qasim Hammudi, secretary general of the Arab Popular Forces Conference, has denounced the Security Council's decision to maintain the unjust blockade on Iraq. He added that the Security Council, which is totally under the control of the administration of war criminal Bush and his allies in London and Paris, has ignored Iraq's commitment to its obligations toward Resolution 687 and has not even thought of easing the blockade somewhat, given that the Iraqi Government has cooperated positively with the United Nations and its inspection teams for a year and a half.

Sa'd Qasim Hammudi said that the hysterical atmosphere and extortionist political and military threats that accompanied the Security Council's periodic review have become a bad tradition that is expedited by the U.S.-British-French coalition in order to mobilize the general atmosphere and poison world public opinion to maintain the comprehensive blockade on Iraq, despite the fact that the inhuman blockade is no longer justified morally, legally, or politically.

He urged all patriotic and nationalist parties, federations, unions, and figures all over our greater Arab homeland to condemn the unjust blockade against Iraq and to denounce any infringement on Iraq's sovereignty, threats to its national unity, or interference in its domestic affairs—which is done through supporting mercenaries and traitors, who have accepted the fall into the quagmire of betraying their own people and homeland.

He concluded that the steadfast Iraqi people, who rally around the banner of the unique leader, President Saddam Husayn, are stronger than all kinds of imperialist-Zionist plotting, and that victory will always be on their side, God willing.

SAIRI Head Cites Baghdad Attack on Southern Iraq

LD2707143992 Tehran IRNA in English 1340 GMT 27 Jul 92

[Text] Tehran, July 27, IRNA—The regime in Baghdad has launched heavy attacks against the Arab populated south, setting afire several villages and depriving others of water, head of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) informed the leader of the Islamic Revolution today.

Hojat-ol-Eslam Mohammad Baqir Hakim in his message to Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, said that Saddam Husayn's military forces are pounding areas outside their control with surface-to-surface missiles using MiG and Sukhoi airplanes.

"By pouring huge cauldrons filled with incendiary agents, the Ba'athist forces have set fire to several villages, causing heavy damage," said the message.

In addition, said the SAIRI head, "many people are feared to have lost their lives because of lack of water following the regime's diversion of the course of streams and canals from some villages."

The Arabs of southern Iraq, ignored by international bodies and shunned by the world mass media, have borne the brunt of the sufferings following the popular uprising which swept the country in March 1991.

The uprising was crushed with untold brutality by the ruling regime, and unlike the Kurds in northern Iraq, the not so lucky Arabs suffered casualties in tens of thousands, while an equal number sought refuge in the dense marshlands of the south.

In related news from al-Hillah Province, south-central Iraq, Sunday, a blast triggered by the opponents shattered the political department of the Security Centre, killing the chief security officer.

To encounter the growing discontent, the regime has called to military service all those born between 1959-1969.

Envoy in Switzerland Seeking Political Asylum

LD2707135692 Tehran IRNA in English 1217 GMT 27 Jul 92

[Text] Tehran, July 27, IRNA—First secretary of the Iraqi Permanent Mission at the U.N. office in Geneva, Nasir Mahmud Mazmur, has requested the Swiss Government for political asylum, announced the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI).

Mahmuz, in protest to the recent attacks of the Baghdad regime on the Arab south, left his office to seek political asylum in Switzerland.

According to SAIRI Mahmuz was in secret cooperation with the opponents of the Saddam Husayn regime.

Rabin Responds to Knesset No-Confidence Motions

TA2707151592 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1358 GMT 27 Jul 92

[Address to the Knesset plenum by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in response to five no-confidence motions—live]

[Text] Mr. Speaker, members of the Knesset: I am astounded and dumbfounded by the no-confidence motions. We presented our entire policy to the public prior to the elections and in the government's basic guidelines two weeks ago. What did they contain? The first guideline, the first course of action, was to exhaust the chances of making peace in accordance with the format and the framework of the Madrid conference, both on the bilateral and the multilateral tracks, by conducting negotiations with the Jordanian- Palestinian delegation on the establishment of a transitional arrangement for Palestinian self-government or autonomy for a definite period of time—this does not represent any commitment whatsoever about our position concerning the permanent solution to be attained at the end of the five-year transitional period—and by reaching a dialogue with Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan on peace without any preconditions between us and each of these countries.

This is the format of the process of making peace to which we adhere, guided by Israel's international commitment in the Camp David accords, on everything pertaining to the negotiations on the establishment of the self-government or autonomy.

I was asked by Knesset Member [MK] Moshe Qatzav about land for peace. MK Qatzav, how dare you and the Likud members talk about land for peace? Who set the precedent whereby in exchange for peace one has to give back land, down to the last grain of sand, as you did in order to attain peace with Egypt? Who set the precedent whereby in exchange for peace one has to uproot settlements and destroy Yamit? Did Labor or a government led by it ever do such a thing? [heckling by various MK's]

Who set the precedent—and you had better read the Camp David accords—the precedent for peace in the Middle East? Who set the precedent that in exchange for peace.... [heckling by various MK's]

Please, before you talk and blame others you had better look at your own deeds. [heckling by MK Yehoshu'a Matza, who asks Rabin whether he intends to emulate what happened in the Sinai]

No, I will not. Neither will I say what MK Matza said, that Sinai is not Eretz Yisra'el. Tomorrow he might say the same things about the Golan Heights. As for Jerusalem, you will not tell me what to do.

The second commitment we made is to change the national order of priorities. We said as much before the elections, and in our government's basic guidelines. We did not delude anybody, either those who were thinking of voting for us or those who were not. We said that instead of investing money in settlement in densely populated Arab areas—we did not talk about the confrontation lines—we would change the national order of priorities. We said that we would redirect the money—if any is left—to deal with social and economic problems of 3.9 million of Israel's Jews and 1 million of its non-Jewish citizens.

During the five-and-a-half-year tenure of the national unity government, 3,500 housing units were budgeted for construction in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. At the time, nobody in the Likud saw this as a selling out of Eretz Yisra'el. In the past two or two and a half years, there were attempts to budget or sign purchase commitments of 100 percent of something like 17,000 or 20,000 housing units.

We always considered this and continue to consider this a distorted national order of priorities, regardless of the eventual fate of those parts of Eretz Yisra'el in the permanent arrangement. This will not decide anything—and there already has been a precedent: the Sinai peninsula, and I am not talking about Jerusalem or its environs. [heckling]

Therefore, we decided to change the national order of priorities, to transfer and reallocate resources, even if reducing the scope of settlement activity set by the previous government entails some difficulties and pain in the initial stage. All in all, we permitted further construction on approximately 9,000 housing units in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. Had I been party to the decisions on this issue during the tenure of the national unity government, I would not have agreed even to such a scope.

However, today, in light of the circumstances, and considering the legal constraints and problems....[pauses] This is not a drying up—this is not what we intend to bring about. We still consider ourselves responsible for the security and well-being of the residents in the territories and that will be the case even if autonomy is established. That is the condition: Security, foreign affairs, and responsibility for the lives of the Jews residing in the territories will remain in Israel's hands. These conditions were expressly clarified by us to the United States, as we have not yet met with the [Jordanian-Palestinian] delegation.

Therefore, raising these no-confidence motions is totally unfounded because we received the public's vote of confidence for these positions, which we clearly stated, explained, and declared before the elections. We spelled them out two weeks ago while presenting the government's guidelines. We preferred not to link this issue to the negotiations with the United States over the loan guarantees, because we believe that there is a need to change the national order of priorities. This decision was made by a sovereign and independent government, and it has nothing to do with the loan guarantees. Not everything between us and the United States with regard to the guarantees has been resolved. I very much hope that the guarantees will be granted, but not under any condition. Our decisions to alter the order of priorities, to cancel the construction of housing units in Judaea and

Samaria, as well as in other areas, stem primarily from considerations related to the national order of priorities. They also stem from other considerations, but primarily domestic ones.

As you all well know, I am a member of the Labor Party, and anyone reading the decisions made during its convention can see that it is against the establishment of a Palestinian state between Israel and Jordan.

As things stand now, however, the issue will not be dealt with by the present government anyway during its current term in office. The whole issue is irrelevant. We are interested in promoting the making of peace with the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation as part of the negotiations for self-government. We would like to see greater Jordanian involvement in the process. We are all for promoting a dialogue with Syria. We want peace with Syria, but without giving up Israel's crucial security interests pertaining to the Golan Heights. We want peace with Lebanon, but Lebanon is still a country which is controlled by Syria for all intents and purposes. We have no territorial dispute with Lebanon. We have only one problem with Lebanon: the security issue. As long as the security problems are not resolved, we will pursue the current policy, which I formulated in 1985 when I was defense minister in the national unity government. Our goal was to achieve peace for the Galilee, and our method was to establish a security zone with the SLA [South Lebanese Army] and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], thus affording us freedom of action against any terrorist target.

I hope that we will attain peace with Lebanon as well. We all want this. Therefore, everything I said and everything we are doing was made unequivocally clear to the public in advance. This was expressed in our guidelines. I understand your concern and anger. You are no longer part of the government today. The results of the elections preclude the establishment of a government by the Likud, and by some of those parties which submitted today's no-confidence motions. However, to come and claim that something new and surprising was carried out is simply not true. We clearly stated our positions to the public, this is the platform on which we were elected, and this is what we will do. We will promote the making of peace, the altering of the national order of priorities—this is what we shall carry out according to our policy and decisions as the independent government of the sovereign State of Israel.

Therefore, I propose that the Knesset remove all these motions of no confidence.

No-Confidence Motions Defeated

TA2707181492 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 27 Jul 92

[Text] A short time ago the Knesset defeated five motions of no-confidence in the government submitted by the opposition parties. Three Knesset members of United Torah Jewry absented themselves from the hall during the vote. The no-confidence motions were defeated by a majority of 59 votes in favor to 48 votes against.

Rabin Blames Shamir for 'Grim' Economic Situation

TA2707173692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 27 Jul 92

[Text] At the first meeting of the Labor Party's Knesset faction, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that although he had known that the economy was in difficulties, he had been unaware of just how grim the situation really was. We found almost empty coffers and commitments to the tune of several billion shekels, Rabin said. Our Knesset affairs correspondent Yo'el Nir reports:

[Begin recording] [Nir] The first thing Yitzhaq Rabin did was to attempt to lower expectations. Regarding the political sphere, he said, we have no magic formula to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict. Our hand is extended in peace, he said, and our intention to introduce our own concepts into the formula of the Madrid conference is well known. As for changing the national order of priorities, Rabin said: We discovered empty coffers with commitments running into the billions and a slew of legal problems. He placed the blame for this on the previous government, clearly referring to former Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's claim that his government had left the country in good shape.

[Rabin] I must admit that I knew that the situation was very difficult, but I found circumstances worse than I imagined. There were commitments, investment starts, and legal problems that would make it very difficult for us to implement all our goals. In my opinion, the previous government's national priorities meant that billions were invested in objectives that I believe contribute neither to security nor to social and economic needs, such as the war on unemployment, the furthering of education, and the elimination of poverty in our society. These are things which, in my opinion, are more important than all the political settlements that were established. Not all this can be reversed. We also found almost empty coffers and commitments totaling billions. We shall have to make a great effort to create the conditions that will enable us to recruit resources to resolve first and foremost our social and economic problems.

[Nir] It could be said that Yitzhaq Rabin has reiterated his no-confidence in the previous government four hours before replying to the latter's motions of no-confidence in his own government. [end recording]

Freeze Extended to 4,000 Units in Green Line

TA2707175892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 27 Jul 92

[Text] The prime minister, the finance minister, and the construction minister this evening decided to freeze the construction of 4,000 apartments within the boundaries of the Green Line. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir points

out that issues pertaining to construction in the territories were not raised in the meeting.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1730 GMT on 27 July adds that "the freeze will apply to those apartments for which contracts have been signed, but where construction has not yet begun. Finance Minister Avraham Shohat told our economic affairs correspondent Yaron Kulas that, all in all, construction of over 12,000 housing units throughout the country will be frozen and, consequently, the Treasury will save between 1.5 to 1.8 billion shekels. Finance Ministry officials estimate that the amount the government will have to pay contractors for breach of contract will total less than 100 million shekels."]

King Husayn Returns From Talks With al-Asad

JN2407171792 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Jul 92

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn returned home this evening after a brief visit to the Syrian Arab Republic, during which he offered condolences to His Excellency Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad on the death of his mother.

King Husayn and President Hafiz al-Asad also held a meeting during which they discussed bilateral relations. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Returns From Damascus, Comments

JN2607162392 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 26 Jul 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir and his accompanying delegation returned to Amman today via the al-Ramthah border crossing after taking part in the foreign ministers' meetings in Damascus.

In a statement to the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY, Dr. Abu-Jabir said that the meetings were fruitful and useful. During these meetings, we exchanged views on the issues currently under consideration in the Middle East arena, he noted. He indicated that there had been coordination for the forthcoming phase, and that the ministers reviewed the situation in the aftermath of two important developments, the first of which was the outcome of Israeli elections, which resulted in the formation of a new cabinet, and the second regional tour of U.S. Secretary of State Baker and the results of this tour.

Dr. Abu-Jabir affirmed that the conferees agreed on the need for coordination, continued consultations, and a common perspective. He pointed out that the conferees focused on the wide-ranging objectives of the parties involved in the peace process, which are comprehensive, just, and based on international legitimacy. These objectives concern the restoration of territory in exchange for peace, the implementation of relevant Security Council resolutions, the granting to the Palestinian people of their right to self-determination, and withdrawal from Arab lands, including holy Jerusalem, he noted. He maintained that all the Arab parties concerned with the peace process are in agreement on all these constants.

Dr. Abu-Jabir continued: If there is a willingness for peace, we would like to say that what we want is an honorable, just, and durable peace. Each of these words has its own meaning. That is, we want a peace that will be acceptable to this generation and to future ones as well.

Dr. Abu-Jabir and his delegation were welcomed upon arrival at the al-Ramthah border crossing by the al-Ramthah district officer and a number of officials.

Prime Minister Returns From State Visit to Turkey

JN2607160992 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 26 Jul 92

[Text] Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir returned to Amman today at the conclusion of a three-day official visit to Turkey, during which he relayed a message from His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan to Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel.

The prime minister was welcomed upon his return by Dhuqan al-Hindawi, deputy prime minister and minister of education; Engineer 'Ali al-Suhaymat, deputy prime minister and minister of transport; Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din, minister of state for cabinet affairs; and the Turkish ambassador in Amman.

Engineer Sa'd Hayil al-Surur, minister of public works and housing, returned along with his excellency the prime minister.

Army Units Repossess Additional State Property

NC2607063692 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 26 Jul 92

[Statement by the Lebanese Army Command's Guidance Directorate issued on 26 July]

[Text] Within the framework of the campaign to repossess state property occupied by others, Army units last night repossessed the following property and buildings:

Bayt al-Din Palace which belongs to the Tourism Ministry; Kazinu Lubnan which belongs to the Finance Ministry; and the Agriculture Ministry buildings in al-'Abdah in the north.

Junblatt on Bayt al-Din Takeover

NC2607125892 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1130 GMT 26 Jul 92

[Excerpts] Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] Leader Walid Junblatt said he hopes the parliamentary elections will be as honest as it is claimed they will be. He asserted that he will participate in the elections to consolidate Arab rights, liberty, and progress and to liberate the south.

Addressing a large delegation of citizens from Shhim in Iqlim al- Kharrub who came to express support for the nomination of Dr. Bilal 'Abdallah, member of the PSP Council of Commissaries, as candidate in the parliamentary elections, Junblatt commented on the Army's entry into the People's Palace in Bayt al-Din, declaring it to be an act of occupation.

[Begin Junblatt recording] [passage omitted] Yesterday we were holding a cultural exhibition in Bayt al-Din, as we have done over the years. This morning the Army came and occupied the palace. I only hope that this maneuver will be a prelude to the establishment of state authority over the Bayt al-Din Palace as a palace of the people. If, however, the legitimate authorities want to restore this palace to feudal, sectarian parties so that it stops being the republican palace it used to be, then this will be a serious sign about the elections and to [words indistinct]. We are waiting. We are hoping, as I said before, that the elections will be free and honest in the true sense of the word. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Al-Sulh 'Determined' To Take Barracks

NC2707064892 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 27 Jul 92

[Text] Prime Minister Rashid al-Sulh last night commented to his visitors about the campaigns directed against the government as a result of the decision to ask the Lebanese Army Command to repossess official buildings and institutions. He affirmed thet he will not be deterred by these campaigns. The government will continue to carry out its tasks to consolidate its authority and will not retreat. It will complete the task of repossessing all the official buildings in any area. He added that this applies to the Shaykh 'Abdallah Barracks in Ba'labakk. We are determined to repossess it within the next few hours. He expressed the view that there is no problem in this regard.

Al-Sulh added: We have one choice: Either the state is consolidated or anarchy persists. We have chosen to consolidate the state over any other alternative. It is no longer permissible to accept the existence of half a state.

[Earlier in the same newscast Voice of Lebanon reported: "Another dossier, no less important than the elections, expected to be closed in the next few days is the dossier of repossessing occupied official buildings and public property. Within this framework, the Lebanese Army is expected within two days to repossess the Shaykh 'Abdallah Barracks in Ba'labakk, which is occupied by Hizballah. After this, it is expected that the Army will launch raids to confiscate light weapons and other types of weapons.]

Hizballah Evacuates Barracks

NC2707172192 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 27 Jul 92

[Text] Hizballah today began evacuating the Shaykh 'Abdallah Barracks in al-Biqa'. Husayn al-Musawi, leader of the Islamic Amal Movement, said that Hizballah is considering returning the Lebanese Army barracks that it occupies to the state. There should be no problem, he added.

REUTER has cited Colonel Husayn al-Laqis, a Lebanese Army intelligence officer, as saying that Hizballah elements are leaving the barracks, which are slated to be repossessed by the Army.

Security sources say that Hizballah began moving heavy weapons from the barracks to other bases in al-Biqa' and the south in April. The same sources expect Hizballah to return to the Army some artillery pieces and 11 U.S.-made armored personnel carriers that were inside the barracks when the Muslim fundamentalists took control of them in 1983.

The [Iranian Revolutionary] Guards refused to let journalists into the barracks today. It is not clear yet whether several hundred Revolutionary Guards are still inside the barracks.

Interior Minister Comments on Election Arrangements

NC2807062392 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 28 Jul 92

[Text] Interior Minister Staff Major General Sami al-Khatib has stated that the parliamentary elections are the most significant sign locally, regionally, and internationally that Lebanon has entered a period of genuine domestic peace. At a new conference yesterday, he said special polling centers will be provided for displaced

people in areas where they can cast their ballots. He promised that this issue will be settled 15 days before the dates of the elections.

Al-Khatib noted that the government will begin contacts with the United Nations and the multinational forces in south Lebanon in the next two weeks to consider placing polling boxes for border strip residents in the areas where these forces are deployed. He said that if the UN forces reject this arrangement, we will put ballot boxes outside the border strip.

Al-Khatib said the opposition parties can express their views within the Chamber of Deputies. He welcomed the idea of preparing election lists by the opposition, noting that the opposition parties defeated the state's candidates in 1968. He said the opposition can try once more. Al-Khatib indirectly accused opponents of the elections of acting to raise the U.S. dollar exchange rate and complicating the economic crisis.

Junblatt Supports Parliamentary Elections

NC2407131292 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1130 GMT 24 Jul 92

[Text] Walid Junblatt, leader of the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP], has stated that the PSP supports holding parliamentary elections despite the reservations it has regarding them.

Addressing the PSP Guides Association which met in B'aqlin today to discuss the PSP's election platform and the measures connected with launching the election campaign, Junblatt said that the elections are a secondary issue compared with solving the economic and social problems and liberating the occupied lands. He added that the armed conflict has ended on the local level but will continue in the south and western al-Biqa' until liberation and the implementation of UN Security Council 425. He said: We are strategically allied with Syria to liberate the south, regarding the Palestinian issue, and in the confrontation of the U.S. and European blockade. He added: Whether or not Baker comes to the region, the conflict will not be solved and the crisis will continue.

Hizballah Participation in Elections Analyzed

NC2707151192 Beirut AL-DIYAR in Arabic 15 Jul 92 p 12

["AL-DIYAR's Telescope" column by Rozana Ilyan Bu-Munsif: "Hizballah and Political Absorption"]

[Text] The escalating Christian opposition to the parliamentary elections has to a large degree obscured a very important event, despite the fact that this event constitutes a major turning point in the Lebanese situation which could set the bases for a reality and equation never before seen in Lebanese politics. This event is Hizballah's decision to participate in the election battle and enable its nominees to join the parliament. This decision was followed by a series of stands expressed by the party's leaders, especially during the 'Ashura celebrations, through which they wanted to present themselves in a unique position distinguishing them from the rest of the forces in Lebanon, especially when it comes to stressing honesty, adherence to the people's concerns, empathizing with their problems, and opposing the current course of government and politics.

The background to this decision, say political circles in western Beirut, is closely connected to Hizballah. It started with Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati's visit, the first visit by an Iranian official to Beirut, which took place to consolidate relations between Iran and Lebanon. It created a legitimate umbrella for Hizballah in Lebanon by viewing it as resistance against Israel. This umbrella was followed by resolutions issued by Lebanese authorities, which are still applicable, to exclude Hizballah from the arms confiscation process. Before that, it was also excluded from the disbandment of militias by characterizing it as an opposition group. During Velayati's meetings with representatives of the Lebanese parties allied with Damascus, the latter were made to understand that there is an Iranian policy, coordinated fully with the Syrian capital, to find a solution to the resistance issue. The United States is putting great pressure on Lebanon and Syria in this regard. This has become an embarrassing issue threatening negative repercussions from the south. It has become clear that Washington is turning a blind eye to the repeated Israeli aggression against Lebanon while resistance operations continue. These meetings concluded with an inherent understanding on the need to coordinate stands between the resistance and Lebanese authorities to an extent that would at least guarantee that the Lebanese Government is not subjected to disintegration, in return for not threatening the existence of this resistance.

From this perspective, the process of including Hizballah in the elections is a first step toward the state absorbing this organization as it did the rest of the militias, even if the state's recognition of this organization came rather late. This step, even if considered a move to reduce Hizballah's size as part of the reorganization of the militias and the channeling of their influence toward the legitimate government, is an alternative to striking at the militia and terminating its existence in Lebanon, which had been the prevailing view since the disbanding and disarming of militias started.

The importance of this step is that it precedes the Syrian withdrawal or redeployment in September. The importance of this withdrawal not taking place, if such a decision is made, is linked to the fact that the Lebanese Government needs the Syrian forces to control Hizballah because Syria has influence over Hizballah and because it alone is capable of attacking and disarming it.

Hizballah's announcement that it will join the Lebanese political scene defuses the second option of striking

Hizballah and advances the possibility of negotiating with it and approaching it from the standpoint on its future position in the legislature.

Despite the fact that Hizballah's presence and influence in Lebanon is considered a Syrian card as much as an Iranian one—and perhaps even more so—and despite the fact that Damascus is frustrating the U.S. attempt to see this organization weakened and eventually terminated, in addition to gaining many other cards, these sources add certain Iranian considerations to the Syrian ones, basic among which is the following:

- The Islamic Republic of Iran is adopting a new course in exporting the "Iranian revolution", if this expression can be used. The Algerian example is the best example of this course, since Islamic fundamentalists chose to infringe upon the authorities and assume positions in the government, along with all the possibilities the process of joining the government could create. The same thing could apply to Lebanon if Hizballah's ambitions in this regard fail to the same extent as fundamentalism in Algeria—which happened for many reasons which we cannot mention here.

Irrespective of the many dimensions of this step, which go beyond the domestic Lebanese level, the parliamentary quota to be given to Hizballah will define the extent of the role it plays and the goals in which the interests of the two influential parties, Iran and Syria, intersect.

Maronite Patriarch Views Strike, Elections

NC2607150192 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 26 Jul 92

[Sermon by Maronite Patriarch Nasrallah Sfayr in Beirut on 25 July—recorded]

[Text] Dear brothers and sons: Last week's events dictate our actions like the events in the Ephesus church dictated to the Apostle Paul what he had to do with one of his disciples during a mass. Like him, we address those who listen and tell them that we are passing through a difficult time. The thorny issues with which we are dealing require calm, wisdom, and patience.

There are three prominent issues today: The strike, setting the dates for elections, and the state's repossession of its property.

The strike was civilized and its organizers and supervisors deserve to be congratulated for that. It came to express the population's rejection of the elections, which will not be valid if refugees and the displaced, estimated to be one-sixth of the voting population, are not allowed to take part. The elections will not be free as long as there are foreign armies on Lebanese territory.

Many people correctly believe that setting the dates for the elections on the heels of a successful strike constitutes a flagrant defiance of a good part of Lebanese society. Everyone understands that this type of defiance only further complicates the problems. We do not believe this is what officials want.

It is the state's business and duty to repossess its property, given that it carries out this task without exception or showdowns. However, the state must return to the people their property, which is the source of their income. It must return property that some state establishments occupied so that justice and peace will prevail.

Hizballah Source Cited on Hostage Negotiations

NC2807114392 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 28 Jul 92

[Text] The issue of the hostages in the Middle East is not over, although the file of the Western hostages in Lebanon has been closed. A senior Hizballah source told REUTER today that there are indirect contacts to reach an agreement to exchange detainees. However, we do not expect to achieve sudden progress, particularly since the importance of the issue of the Lebanese detainees in Israeli prisons has been placed on the back burner. There is no international interest in the Lebanese detainees' fate. Israel does not seem in a hurry to close this file. He added: The West completely washed its hands of this issue as soon as the Western hostages left Lebanon. The most prominent detainee in Israeli jails is Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd, who is spending his fourth year in prison. 'Ubayd's sons yesterday appealed to human rights committees and activists to help release their father.

Hizballah Radio Reports Clash With Israeli Forces

NC2807070792 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 28 Jul 92

[Text] The Islamic resistance yesterday evening stopped a Zionist infiltration attempt outside the occupied security strip, taking the lives of huge numbers of aggressors.

The details are as follows: A Zionist infantry force backed by three Merkava tanks at 1730 yesterday advanced from al-Ahmadiyah toward the Makbas Humayd area in western al-Biqa'. A clash ensued when Islamic resistance men ambushed them, showering the enemy with machine-gun and artillery fire.

A fierce clash following between the aggressive force and the heroic resistance fighters, resulting in a large number of Zionist injuries and deaths.

To conceal the aggressors' fear, another Zionist force began a large-scale raking operation in the operational area. Their objective was to evacuate the injured from the battlefield. Enemy artillery gunners also launched concentrated shelling against the outskirts of Suhmur, the al-Litani River basin, and the outskirts of 'Ayn al-Tinah.

This shelling, the objective of which was to cover up for the Zionists' incompetence, slightly injured Qasim 'Isa, 16, of al- Dallafah. He was taken to Jubb Jannin Hospital.

Skyhawk Overflies Iqlim al-Tuffah

NC2807083192 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 28 Jul 92

[Text] The Israeli occupation forces resumed their acts of aggression against southern Lebanon this morning. A Skyhawk aircraft flew over Iqlim al-Tuffah at 1000 today. The Israeli forces also bombarded the eastern hills with mortar shells after a night of tension.

Al-Sulh, Delegation Depart for Paris

NC2707084092 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 27 Jul 92

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Rashid al-Sulh has left for Paris on an invitation from his French counterpart Pierre Beregovoy. [passage omitted]

At the airport, al-Sulh stressed the good ties between Lebanon and France and affirmed that all outstanding problems between the two countries have been resolved. However, he noted that financial problems still exist between the two countries and expressed hope that they will resolved soon. He hopes to obtain financial assistance for Lebanon.

Foreign Minister Buwayz said the visit will deal with a wide range of comprehensive issues. He noted that the first priority is to discuss the rescheduling of part of the French debts, arming the Lebanese Army, and the political aspects of launching development projects. He pointed out that there is a plan to rehabilitate the entire infrastructure in Lebanon.

Further on Meetings of Saudi Foreign Minister

Al-Shar' Receives al-Faysal

JN2707055192 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 27 Jul 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, yesterday evening. 'Umar al-Sayyid, Syrian ambassador in Riyadh, and Shaykh Ahmad al-Quhaymi, Saudi ambassador in Damascus, attended the meeting.

Discussions dealt with developments in the region, especially the peace process and the outcome of Baker's recent tour. They also discussed coordination and cooperation between the foreign ministries of the two fraternal states.

Riyadh Reports Meeting

LD2707090292 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 27 Jul 92

[Excerpts] His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister, met yesterday evening at the Syrian Foreign Ministry headquarters with His Excellency Faruq al-Shar', the Syrian foreign minister. [passage omitted]

His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister and head of the Saudi side of the Joint Saudi-Syrian Committee, pointed out that the opening session discussed cooperation between the two countries, and the report of the preparatory committee of the Joint Saudi-Syrian Committee.

In a news statement after the session yesterday, Sunday, His Highness said the two countries' delegations are satisfied with the results reached in this session, which formulated principles for cooperation between the two countries in economic, cultural, media, and youth affairs. [passage omitted]

Al-Shar', al-Faysal Address Committee

JN2707081592 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 26 Jul 92

[Excerpts] The joint committee for cooperation between the Syrian Arab Republic and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia held its third session in Damascus today. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' delivered an opening speech, welcoming Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, brother Muhammad Aba-al-Khayl, and the members of the Saudi Delegation. He said: Our brotherly relations are daily becoming stronger in implementation of the directives of President Hafiz al-Asad and his brother King Fahd Bin- 'Abd-al'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, and out of our mutual eagerness to further cooperation between our two countries to achieve both the Syrian and Saudi peoples' interests, prosperity, and stability and to defend our mutual Arab and Islamic issues.

Al-Shar' added: Undoubtedly, the large-scale international and regional changes have created growing responsibilities for our fraternal countries. The international changes have produced disputes and wars of a new kind, the impact of which we cannot ignore. The most important regional change was the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, the effects of which are still sweeping our region without any prospect of a swift end to them.

The foreign minister also said: It would not be an exaggeration to say that the peace battle, which we have been waging since the Madrid conference, constitutes a challenge of a special nature, and has requirements, conditions, and difficult considerations that we should not belittle or ignore. The peace march which we believe in, means wresting our occupied territories and our usurped rights, which are recognized by the international legitimacy and the UN resolutions, from enemy hands. This enemy, despite all that is said about a change in its mood and policy, still adheres to what it has no right to have and bargains with the United States and Europe not to return the Arab territories that were occupied by force, but merely to reduce settlement activity, no more no less.

Speaking about cooperation between the two countries, the foreign minister said: Joint cooperation has been promoted since the formation of this committee. However, the committee's most important achievement is that it has established strong bases for cooperation between our two countries, which we should protect. It will be to our mutual benefit to seek further comprehensive and richer cooperation in all areas—cooperation that will be an example to be followed regarding bilateral Arab relations—in the interest of joint Arab action.

The minister added: I note with satisfaction the achievements of the preparatory committee in a number of areas and economic issues, and note especially its agreement on most issues. I would also like to express our satisfaction over the measures to facilitate entry visa and residence requirements for Syrian Arab citizens in Saudi Arabia and to provide work for them. I appreciate this step, which has emerged from the spirit of brotherhood and fruitful cooperation between our two fraternal countries. On this occasion, I would like to refer to the Syrian Government's major step toward encouraging investment by issuing Law No. 10, which has created large work opportunities and encouraged both individual and collective investment and for the Kingdom's sons to contribute to establishing investment companies and economic projects.

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal then spoke. He said: The convening of this session of the joint committee is an opportunity to continue cooperation, consultation, and coordination in all matters and issues of interest to our fraternal peoples, our Arab and Islamic nation, and our international family—a method adopted by the leaderships of the two fraternal countries to express their joint political will for serious, positive work in the interest of our two fraternal peoples and our Arab nation.

He added: Our cooperation through this joint committee has covered a large area within a short time. We have managed, God be praised, to establish strong pillars to promote cooperation in the political, economic, trade, cultural, scientific, media, and youth areas. We also signed and prepared, with God's help, a series of executive agreements covering cooperation in the fields of culture, information, sports, youth, transport, and telecommunications. During this session, we would like to begin to implement these agreements and complete discussions on further achievements, which will lead to fulfilling our fraternal peoples' aspirations.

The committee then reviewed cooperation between the two countries together with a report from the preparatory committee of the higher Syrian-Saudi joint committee. The session was then adjourned until this evening.

Committee Issues Final Statement

JN2707082592 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 27 Jul 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, have signed the joint minutes of the meetings of the higher Syrian- Saudi committee, which concluded its third session in Damascus last night.

A joint statement was issued by the committee, in which the two sides reviewed bilateral cooperation, coordination, and consultation in the political, economic, commercial, investment, industrial, agricultural, cultural, information, technical, manpower, youth and sports areas.

The two sides reviewed various Arab, Islamic, and international issues and the stages covered by the peace process. They agreed that the Arab side has proven its commitment to establishing a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace to the Arab-Israeli conflict, in accordance with the resolutions of international legitimacy, particularly Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, on the basis of land for peace.

The two sides also denounced Israel's arbitrary practices against the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories, as well as Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon, noting that these practices constitute a flagrant violation of international laws. They also called for an end to Israeli violations, hoping that the peace negotiations will achieve noticeable progress in the next round toward the desired objectives.

As for economic and commercial cooperation, the joint committee expressed satisfaction over developing relations of cooperation in this respect, stressing the importance of continued measures to deepen and reinforce these relations, inspired by the provisions of the commercial and economic agreement concluded in 1972.

The Saudi side welcomed Syrian workers to Saudi Arabia, noting that the authorized parties in the Kingdom were issued instructions in this regard. The Syrian side welcomed this step.

The joint committee also reviewed ways to develop and promote cultural, educational, and information relations, stressing satisfaction with the growth of these relations under the cultural and information agreement signed in 1991.

The joint committee reviewed ways to enhance cooperation in technical, health, and manpower affairs. It stressed the need to continue efforts in this framework. The committee also blessed the step to provide technical cadres to work in the health sector in Saudi Arabia.

As for transportation, the committee recommended that concerned parties in both countries promptly finish studying two draft agreements on land and sea transportation between the Kingdom and Syria. With regard to air transportation, it has been agreed to work urgently to increase the number of flights and activate air traffic between the two countries.

In the field of communications, the committee expressed satisfaction because the postal administrations in both countries have actually begun implementing the express mail service between the two countries.

The two sides agreed to hold the next session of the joint committee during Rajab 1413 Hegira, corresponding to January 1993, in Riyadh.

Vice President Receives al-Faysal

JN2707130292 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 27 Jul 92

[Text] At 1000 today, Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The meeting was attended by Ma'mun al-Kurdi, acting undersecretary for economic and cultural affairs at the Saudi Foreign Ministry; Shaykh Ahmad al-Quhaymi, Saudi ambassador in Damascus; and 'Umar al-Sayyid, Syrian ambassador in Riyadh.

The talks dealt with the Arab situation and ways of improving joint Arab action, the latest developments in the peace process, and the results of the Syrian-Saudi joint committee meeting in Damascus.

Al-Asad Meets al-Faysal 27 Jul

JN2707162592 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1600 GMT 27 Jul 92

[Text] Damascus, 27 Jul (SANA)—President Hafiz al-Asad received in al-Qardahah this evening His Highness Prince Sa'ud al- Faysal, foreign minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The meeting was attended by Faruq al-Shar', foreign minister, and Shaykh Ahmad al-Quhaymi, Saudi ambassador in Damascus.